

# Carolina country

## 20 Carolina Country Adventures

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Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

### ALSO INSIDE:

#### Remember that?

Strange souvenirs you brought home

#### After the storm

Restoring power after an outage

#### Comfort food

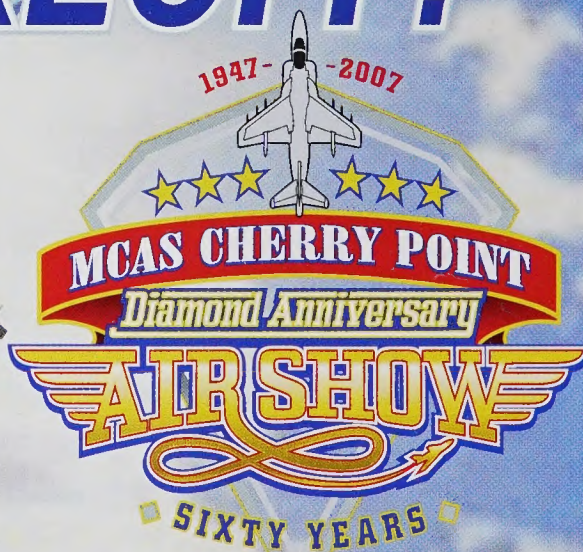
Pot roast, cheddar taters and peach pull-aparts

Your 2007 Touchstone Energy Travel Guide—Inside





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North Carolina's electric cooperatives provide reliable, safe and affordable electric service to 850,000 homes, farms and businesses in North Carolina. The 27 electric cooperatives are each member-owned, not-for-profit and overseen by a board of directors elected by the membership.

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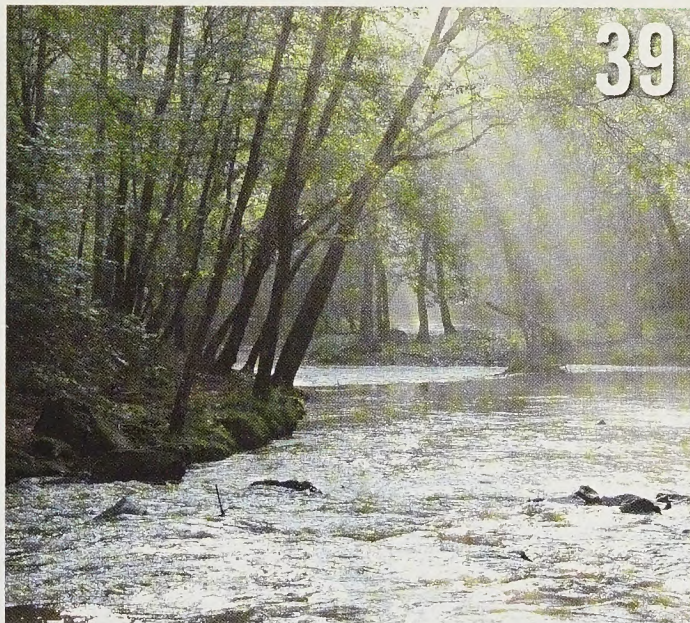
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## HAS YOUR ADDRESS CHANGED?

Carolina Country magazine is available monthly to members of North Carolina's electric cooperatives. If you are a member of one of these cooperatives but do not receive Carolina Country, you may request a subscription by calling Member Services at the office of your cooperative. If your address has changed, please inform your cooperative.



## 11 Farm Tour

This one in Franklin County offers more than just farms.

## 12 After the Storm

An illustrated guide to procedures your electric cooperative follows to restore power after an outage.

## 16 Remember That?

Stories of strange souvenirs you carried home.

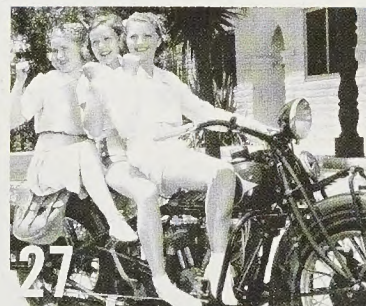


## On the Cover

Hard-to-find Big Falls (Thompson Falls) is located in the Jocassee Gorges area of Transylvania County (Haywood EMC territory). The 6-7 mile roundtrip to uncover this 125-foot-tall waterfall is not for the faint of heart. See page 49 for some easier-to-find North Carolina waterfalls. (Rich Stevenson photo)

## Carolina Country ADVENTURES TRAVEL GUIDE

Your 2007 Touchstone Energy Travel Guide offers 20 adventures in five regions of North Carolina: some new attractions, old standby destinations, places for children and grandchildren—all of them perfectly Carolina Country. There's also a full list of travel resource information centers. Start your adventures on page 39.



## departments

First Person . . . . .	4	Carolina Compass . . . . .	27
On the road in Carolina Country.		April events and exhibits.	
More Power to You. . . . .	8	Carolina Gardens . . . . .	31
No-cost small business training thanks to co-ops.		Potted figs and backyard bees.	
Tar Heel Lessons . . . . .	21	Energy Cents . . . . .	32
For students and teachers.		Assessing the federal energy tax credits.	
Carolina Country Store . . . . .	23	Classified Ads. . . . .	33
A new inn in Greene County.		Carolina Kitchen. . . . .	34
Marketplace . . . . .	24, 26	Bubbly Peach Pull-Aparts, Flavorful Pot Roast,	
A showcase of goods and services.		German Chocolate Bars, Cheddar Taters.	
Joyner's Corner . . . . .	25		
George Washington was the founder of . . .			



# On the road in Carolina Country



*By Michael E.C. Gery, Editor*

For this month's magazine, Carolina Country staff roamed the countryside in search of the "adventures" presented in our annual travel guide, starting on page 39. We tried to choose a good mix—some in Touchstone Energy cooperative areas and some nearby, some historical, some well known and others not, some recreational, some all-natural, some just plain fun. All together they remind us of the wealth that surrounds us in North Carolina. And new places come along all the time. The Chinqua Penn mansion in Rockingham County just recently re-opened. The Ashe County farm tours are relatively new. Other places keep getting better, such as additions to Fort Branch and two brand-new ferry runs to and from Swan Quarter.

It's one of the responsibilities and benefits of this job to roam the countryside to meet with electric cooperative members and the staffs we work with. We often tell ourselves "You know you're in a co-op service area when you begin noticing the steel buildings that are advertised in Carolina Country magazine." It's true, too. That's why so many of the steel building businesses have faithfully advertised with us every month for more than 15 years. We also know we're in a cooperative's service area when we see how the electric distribution lines and poles are sited and constructed—they follow a uniform standard and design for safety and reliability across cooperatives nationwide.

On my adventures this year, I was reminded of the pride that we have in the work of the cooperatives. When I met a ranger, for example, in Singletary Lake State Park, he immediately recognized Carolina Country magazine and thanked Four County EMC for all it does. In Warsaw, at Smithfield's Chicken 'n BBQ, a family hosted their grandfather for lunch and noticed my Carolina Country emblem, telling me that Tri-County EMC sends them the magazine.

Each of the cooperatives in the regions where I traveled leave their marks of professionalism and compassion every day, and each has its own way of serving members and communities.

Four County EMC supports the Relay for Life campaign, distributes joy to families in need through its Christmas Kindness, and (no surprise) continually scores very high in its periodic service satisfaction surveys.

Passing through Brunswick EMC's area, you are struck by new residential and commercial communities expanding east to west. And right there in Southport is the Brunswick EMC district office and yard. This co-op, proud of its progressive service, has been installing underground lines in new areas and others vulnerable to coastal storms.

On Topsail Island I visited the sites where I remember Hurricane Fran did so much damage in 1996. Back then, Jones-Onslow EMC was determined to get the place up

and running, and they sure did. Today, you see JOEMC line crews, dispatched from the smart-looking Sneads Ferry district office, extending new lines on the island.

Similar system improvements are noticeable in the other cooperative service areas of the coastal plain. Fearless new Tideland EMC poles run up Hyde County and into mainland Dare. Carteret-Craven Electric replaced lines in the Cedar Island area and is building a new substation in the Maysville area north of Swansboro to help deliver reliable power to its growing coastal communities, such as a condominium project under way on Bogue Banks. Edgecombe-Martin County EMC and Roanoke Electric, both devastated by Hurricane Floyd in 1999, have rebuilt major parts of their systems. The same is true at Albemarle EMC, knocked completely out by Isabel in 2003, where the rapidly growing residential areas require a new transmission line delivery system to keep up with the demand.


Both Cape Hatteras and Harkers Island cooperatives recently upgraded their systems. Their island communities have depended on the cooperatives for leadership and support.

Tideland EMC has long delivered the personal service that co-ops are known for. "Real People. Real Power" is the title of a recently published Tideland EMC history, recounting how neighbors helped neighbors build the co-op. Tideland is proud of its accessibility to members at three, recently refurbished district offices (Engelhard, Grantsboro and Ocracoke). If you have a need regarding your energy usage, your bill, your right of way, your church, your college-bound student, someone from Tideland may visit you personally to help.

In the Northampton, Bertie, Hertford county area, you can't miss the presence of Roanoke Electric Cooperative. They are everywhere, even with energy resource and construction programs, and helping communities with financial literacy and business development.

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC lately has been very successful in laying the foundation for industrial development, then attracting growing, well-paying businesses to maintain the area's economy, not to mention the co-op's economic condition. Some of the latest here are a QVC home shopping distribution center, a Syfan shrink film firm and Microcell fuel cell manufacturers.

Pitt & Greene EMC has one of the most active business development programs in the state, but they are never too busy to help a family move a precious, historic farmhouse down the road to a new location.

So you can honestly see why we enjoy roaming the countryside in search of adventures, and encouraging others to do the same. 





### Cooper's hawk

I live in Boonville, Yadkin County, and spotted this juvenile Cooper's hawk in my yard early one December morning. I followed him to our neighboring post office, and then to another tree nearby.

*K. Scott Whitaker / Boonville  
Surry-Yadkin EMC*

### Two-in-one vegetable trick

At springtime we think of our vegetable garden. I like to plant tomatoes and potatoes, among many other vegetables. So here is a way to get two vegetables for the price of one.

Take a potato and carve a hole in it, then fill it with good potting soil. Put a tomato seed in the hold, cover with more soil.

Now plant this potato in the vegetable bed in your garden. Soon the plant will sprout, and you will get tomatoes. Then in the fall the same plant will give you potatoes.

Children enjoy the mystery.

*M. Larson / Greensboro  
Carteret-Craven Electric*

### Contact us

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Raleigh, NC 27616

### Impressing the Georgians

I love reading your magazine. When I talk about the things I read, I am always asked, "Where did you learn that?", I reply "Carolina Country." Your magazine has helped me to learn more about this state than any other publication. I am a transplant from farther south.

Anyway, the recipe section is awesome! At Thanksgiving, I made the Pumpkin Torte cake [November 2006] for my family. They were all curious, especially with the main ingredient: pumpkin. You can only imagine those far south Georgia comments. (They think I live up north.) To everyone's surprise, the cake was an absolute hit. I got one piece after all that work. Now they always request that I make it.

*Diana Meredith Phelps / Churchland  
EnergyUnited*

*Editor's note: Find Pumpkin Torte and more than 300 other recipes online at [www.carolinacountry.com](http://www.carolinacountry.com)*

### Supporting the UNC Burn Center

I have just finished reading an article in your magazine "Touchstone Energy cooperatives support UNC's Burn Center." I thought that was a wonderful article, letting us know that our co-ops support this wonderful center. I personally didn't know that my co-op supported them.

I had the chance to visit a dear friend while he was in the UNC Burn Center. The staff there was very attentive to their patients, family and visitors. My friend was under medical sedation the first couple of times that I went to visit, and the staff of nurses there answered all the questions that I had about his condition and about his prognosis.

If it wasn't for the support of our electric co-ops this center might not be able to provide the quality of care that these patients need. Thank you electric co-ops for your continued support of organizations like this one.

*Jennifer Marshburn / Snow Hill  
Pitt & Greene EMC*



### Sunrise at Fort Fisher

I took this sunrise picture in January from the Fort Fisher campground.

*Meigy Capogreco / Raeford*

### Bugs by mail

Some readers have asked where to order insects such as ladybugs and praying mantis that help with garden pest control ["Try This!" March 2007]. Two places are Gardening Zone ([www.gardeningzone.com](http://www.gardeningzone.com), 800-493-1885) and Insect Lore ([www.insectlore.com](http://www.insectlore.com), 800-LIVEBUG).





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## Fuel cell industry plans to locate in Martin County

The Martin County Economic Development Commission reached an agreement recently with Microcell Corporation that could bring more than 100 high-paying technical jobs to eastern North Carolina.

Microcell Corporation's Martin County facility is an alternative energy operation that will manufacture the company's automotive and distributed generation fuel cells. Fuel cells generate electricity for local use by converting a fuel's chemical energy plus an oxidant into electric energy.

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC, the Touchstone Energy cooperative headquartered in Tarboro, is a strategic partner in bringing this project to fruition, in concert with Martin County developers and other officials. Edgecombe-Martin County EMC provided a zero-interest loan to the Martin County Economic Development Commission, who in turn loaned money to Microcell Corporation as an incentive for them to locate to an available building in Robersonville.

"The county has been really supportive in helping us locate here," said Beth Rehbock, vice president and chief administrative officer of Microcell Corporation.

"This has truly been a great example of cooperation between all involved in the process," said Bob McDuffie, general manager at Edgecombe-Martin County EMC.

Microcell Corporation will remain headquartered in the Research Triangle area and is the world leader in low-cost, high performing proton exchange membrane (PEM) fuel cells that are cylindrical in shape, unlike the conventional flat platform. This design lowers production costs and allows for easier product repairs and service.

"Bringing high-tech production to Martin County is a positive step for our economic future," said Eddie Stocks, manager of marketing and member services at Edgecombe-Martin County EMC.

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC serves more than 11,600 member accounts in Edgecombe, Martin and parts of adjacent counties.

## Brunswick EMC pay-as-you-go option sets a trend

In 1991, Brunswick EMC, serving Brunswick and Columbus counties, developed an innovative way for its members to pay for electricity—as it is used. Brunswick Electric's PowerStat Prepaid Power program allows members to purchase power as it fits individual budgets, which helps members control energy bills and consumption. In the 16 years since this program was made available to Brunswick Electric members, more than 200 electric cooperatives across the country have followed suit by offering the program as a payment option.

Almost 10 percent of Brunswick EMC's members take advantage of the PowerStat prepaid program to help stabilize and manage power bills with no deposit fee, no monthly electric bill and no late payment charges. The PowerStat meter and in-home display allow members to precisely monitor their electricity usage with six different readings: Amount Remaining, Usage per Hour, Used Yesterday, Used Last Month, Amount of Last Purchase and the Current Rate at which the customer is being charged. When a member has approximately four days worth of power left, a warning signal appears on the in-home display, which allows members to contact the cooperative and purchase more power.

A critical part of the program is the network of eight Bill Payment Terminals (BPTs) located throughout the co-op's service area. The BPTs accept cash, and most of them are available 24/7, providing maximum convenience for the members. The BPTs do double-duty for the co-op because they are also used to accept payments from members who receive traditional power bills.



## Electric utilities report reducing greenhouse gas emissions

In January 2007, Power Partners<sup>SM</sup> submitted a report to the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) documenting progress made by the U.S. electric power sector in reducing the amount of greenhouse gas emissions produced per kilowatt-hour of electricity. The report highlights voluntary initiatives undertaken by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) and six other organizations that make up Power Partners: the American Public Power Association, Edison Electric Institute,

Electric Power Supply Association, Large Public Power Council, Nuclear Energy Institute and the Tennessee Valley Authority. These organizations represent all of the electric power generation in the United States. NRECA is the trade association for the nation's electric cooperatives and reported progress on their behalf.

In January 2003, electric cooperatives through Power Partners<sup>SM</sup> pledged to collectively reduce electric utility greenhouse gas emissions. In 2004, the latest year for which data

are available, the power sector undertook voluntary actions that reduced, avoided or sequestered the equivalent of more than 282 million metric tons of carbon dioxide. This represents nearly two-thirds of all reductions reported to the federal government in that year.

Electric cooperatives reported on their renewable energy and green power programs, energy efficiency efforts, and use of power technology to reduce or avoid carbon dioxide emissions.



## Co-ops provide technical training at no cost to small businesses

Electric cooperatives recently agreed with SmallBizU to offer its training services at no cost to people and businesses that are members of electric cooperatives.

Cooperatives believe that by offering technical training to small businesses they can help improve the economic development of the communities that co-ops serve. "Electric cooperatives have been called 'economic development engines,'" said Carolyn H. Watts, senior vice president at North Carolina's electric cooperatives' state-wide office. "We work with our customers, large and small. The growth in our state is primarily among small businesses. We want small business to succeed and to be their partner every step of the way."

### What is SmallBizU?

SmallBizU is the first online academy created especially for small businesses and entrepreneurs. As the largest collection of entrepreneurial training resources available on the Web, this online academy seeks to instill a formal business intelligence—the capacity to solve problems, meet challenges, and create valued products.

### What can be found inside?

SmallBizU teaches the "3Ms"—Money, Marketing and Management—through a no-frills curriculum that provides small businesses with real world tools and information. Within SmallBizU there are over 4,000 animated slides presented across 24 core classes. Each course is delivered via the Internet full of animated slides accompanied by voice-over narration, PowerPoint presentations, worksheets, toolsets, and access to a comprehensive knowledgebase.

### What can it do?

Most people who start a business are technicians by trade. They know a skill or craft and seek to build a business around it. They know the trade or craft but not always how to run a business. SmallBizU provides skills an entrepreneur needs on a "just-in-time" basis to

allow them to work on their business rather than just in it.

### What kinds of courses are available?

SmallBizU offers courses from beginner level classes such as Marketing 101 and Finding Money to more advanced courses such as Market Insight and Research and Strategic Planning and Execution. In the "Money" area there are courses in Creating a Loan Package, Finding and Attracting Investors, and Accounting 101. Management courses include Crafting a Business Plan, Choosing a Legal Structure, and Buying a Business. Marketing courses include Positioning, Pricing and Strategy Tactics, and Understanding Intellectual Property.

### What is the typical course format?

Each course moves across a continuum of ten sections. The sections move from a general description of a functional skill, to the recognized theory, to the application of the practice to a small business. A typical course ranges anywhere from 170 to 200 slides and is presented over a three to four-hour period.

### Does SmallBizU duplicate any services already offered?

SmallBizU is not meant to replace any current educational programs or support organizations that already provide such entrepreneurial training. Its purpose is to improve the effectiveness of what is already being offered. It also provides an online complement to existing training courses such as FastTrac or NxLevel business planning curriculums.

### Who can help me or provide more information?

Technical support can be obtained by emailing [service@smallbizu.org](mailto:service@smallbizu.org) or by calling (800) 282-7232 between the hours of 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. EST.



## Renewable energy bills introduced in the state legislature

Two proponents of renewable energy have introduced separate bills in the North Carolina House and Senate to establish a state "renewable portfolio standard" (RPS). An RPS mandates a certain percentage of retail electric sales be generated by renewable energy resources.

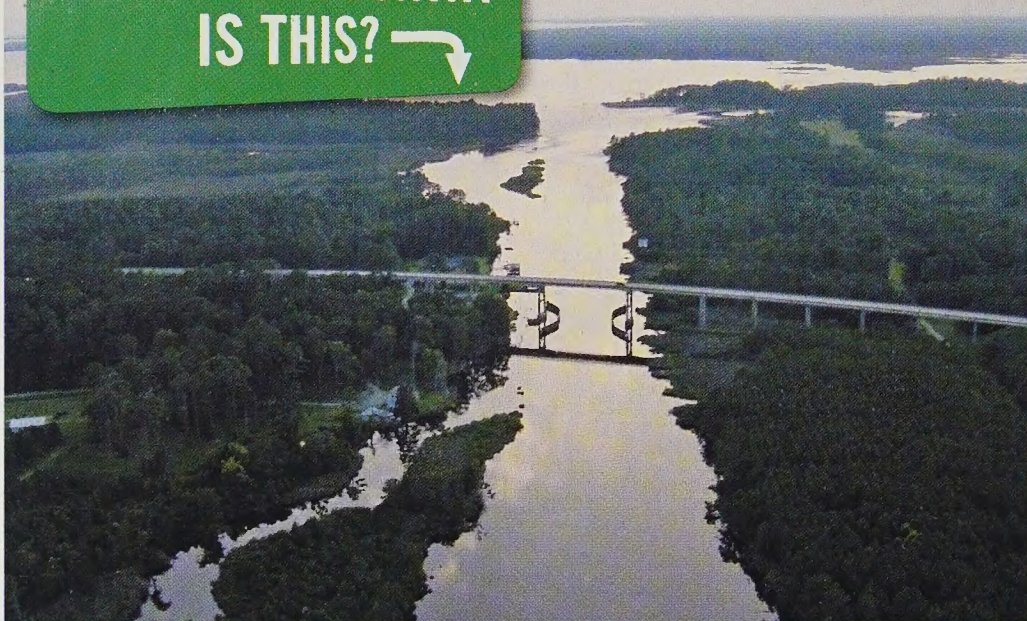
Sen. Charlie Albertson (D-Duplin) introduced a bill to establish a 10 percent RPS for all utilities. In the House, Rep. Pricey Harrison (D-Guilford), Jim Harrell (D-Surry), and Grier Martin (D-Wake) have introduced a bill that establishes a 20 percent RPS by 2021.

These two bills will set in motion a legislative process involving all the state's utilities and other interested groups.

Electric cooperatives support the development of renewable energy in North Carolina, as long as that development does not have an extreme impact on consumers' electric rates. Cooperative representatives have said they will participate in the development of renewable energy legislation throughout the legislative session.



## WHERE IN CAROLINA COUNTRY IS THIS? →



This is a Carolina Country scene in Touchstone Energy territory. If you know where it is, send your answer by April 6 with your name, address, phone number and the name of your electric cooperative.

By e-mail: [where@carolinacountry.com](mailto:where@carolinacountry.com)

Or by mail: Where in Carolina Country?  
P.O. Box 27306  
Raleigh, NC 27611

The winner, chosen at random and announced in our May issue, will receive \$25.

### March winner:

The March photo showed the Danbury Baptist Church on Hwy. 8/89 (Main St.) in Danbury, Stokes County. Jonathan Howard has attended the church for 33 years and told us it was founded as the Dan River Baptist Mission part of Pilot Mountain Baptist Association. It's the view from the Stokes County Community Services Building, formerly the Old Danbury Schoolhouse. Correct answers were numbered and the \$25 winner chosen at random was Jennifer Rakes of Westfield, a member of Surry-Yadkin EMC.



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## This year's Franklin County Farm Foods & Crafts Tour is May 19-20.

See local farms and products on a farm tour



Download a brochure at <http://franklin.ces.ncsu.edu>

**Y**ou can visit any of nine Franklin County farms, learn how they operate, sample foods, and see locally-made crafts on the weekend of May 19-20 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The Franklin County Farm Foods & Crafts Tour takes visitors to an antique furniture supplier, a restored tobacco pack-house that produces handmade pottery and jewelry, livestock farms, an heirloom vegetable and plant farm, a pick-your-own strawberry farm, organic greenhouses, and a purple martin bird display. The stops are "child friendly," and some offer hayrides and petting small animals. The Franklin County Natural Beef Alliance and the N.C. Meat Goat Producers will also be involved.

There will be plenty of food, arts, crafts, music, farm tour caps and t-shirts. You'll get a "support local farms" button.

The tour promotes sustainable agriculture, locally-produced products and local art. Sponsors include: Whole Foods, Franklin County Arts Council and the N.C. Cooperative Extension.

The cost is \$5 per person (children under 12 free). To register, call the Franklin County Cooperative Extension at (919) 496-3344 or register at the first farm you visit.

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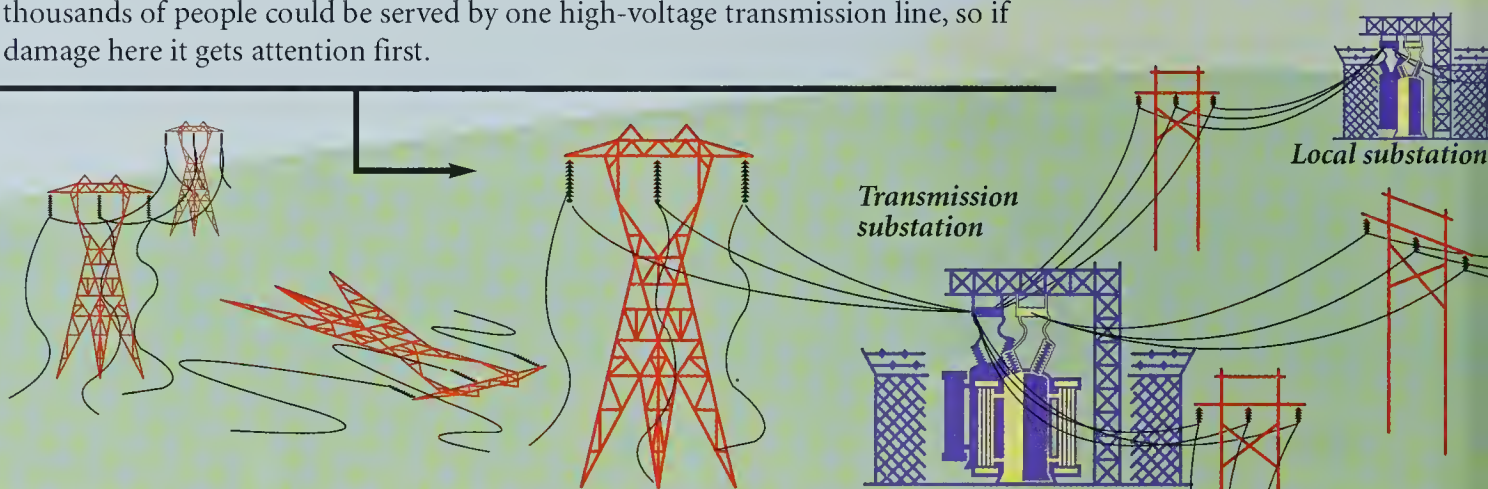
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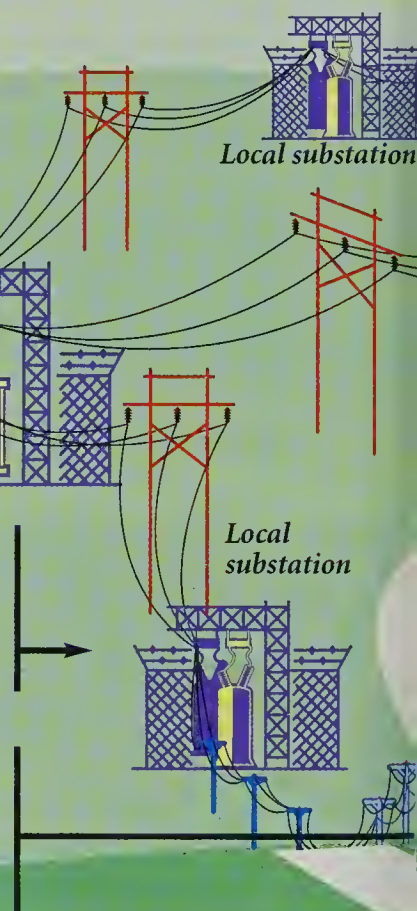
# The steps to restoring power

**Step 1.** Transmission towers and lines supply power to one or more transmission substations. These lines seldom fail, but they can be damaged by a hurricane or tornado. Tens of thousands of people could be served by one high-voltage transmission line, so if there is damage here it gets attention first.



**Step 2.** A co-op may have several local distribution substations, each serving thousands of consumers. When a major outage occurs, the local distribution substations are checked first. A problem here could be caused by failure in the transmission system supplying the substation. If the problem can be corrected at the substation level, power may be restored to a large number of people.

**Step 3.** Main distribution supply lines are checked next if the problem cannot be isolated at the substation. These supply lines carry electricity away from the substation to a group of consumers, such as a town or housing development. When power is restored at this stage, all consumers served by this supply line could see the lights come on, as long as there is no problem farther down the line.



**H**urricanes and ice storms. Tornadoes and blizzards. Electric cooperative members have seen them all. And with such severe weather comes power outages. Restoring power after a major outage is a big job that involves much more than simply throwing a switch or removing a tree from a line.

The main goal is to restore power safely to the greatest number of members in the shortest time possible.

The major cause of outages is damage caused by fallen trees. That's why your electric cooperative has an ongoing right-of-way maintenance program.

This illustration explains how power typically is restored after a major disaster.



**Area enlarged:** Consumers themselves (not the co-op) are responsible for damage to the service installation on the building. Your co-op can't fix anything beyond this point. Call a licensed electrician.

**Step 5.** Sometimes, damage will occur on the service line between your house and the transformer on the nearby pole. This can explain why you have no power when your neighbor does. Your co-op needs to know you have an outage here, so a service crew can repair it.

**Tap Line**

*Other co-ops*

During a major outage, other cooperatives send line crews to assist with restoring power. These additional crews, as well as communications, equipment and supplies, are coordinated through the cooperatives' statewide organization.

*Local substation*

**Step 4.** The final supply lines, called tap lines, carry power to the utility poles or underground transformers outside houses or other buildings. Line crews fix the remaining outages based on restoring service to the greatest number of consumers.

Report your outage to the cooperative office. Employees or response services use every available phone line to receive your outage reports. Remember that a major outage can affect thousands of other members. Your cooperative appreciates your patience.

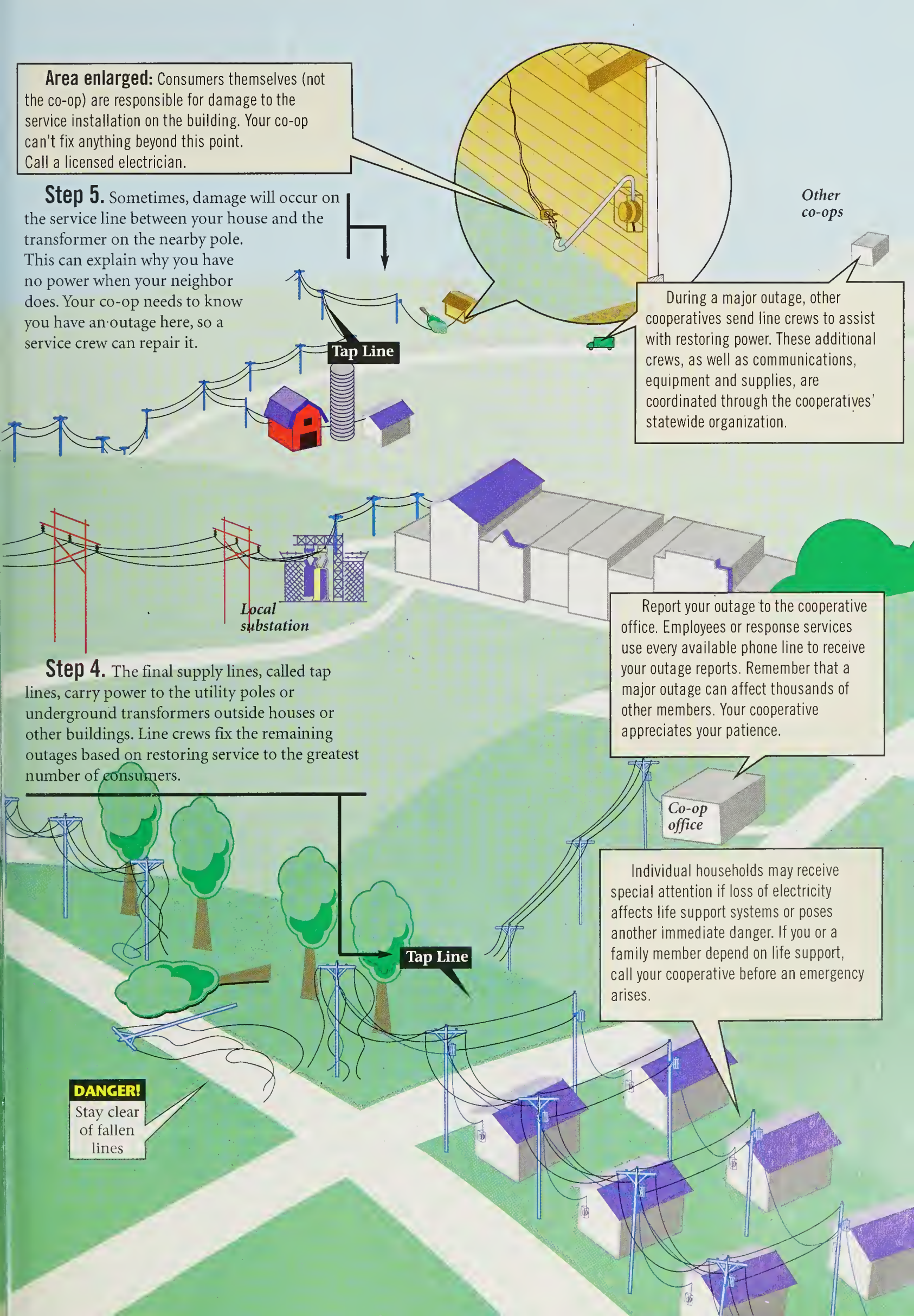
**Co-op office**

**Tap Line**

Individual households may receive special attention if loss of electricity affects life support systems or poses another immediate danger. If you or a family member depend on life support, call your cooperative before an emergency arises.

**DANGER!**

Stay clear of fallen lines





before



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and I love the  
way I look."  
- Cara

after

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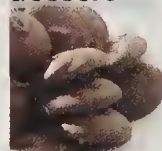
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# Remember That?

*The dumbest souvenir you ever brought home*



## Uncle Bill Byerly's false teeth

Growing up on a small family farm in Davie County, we swapped tobacco primings with two other families during the 1940s and 1950s. As a young child, I was designated as a "hander" and worked dozens of days each summer in the shade with the women and children of the other families while the grown men pulled tobacco in the fields. It was here that many of the family's culture, values, understandings and tribal stories developed. Three or four generations worked together with many of the old grandmas who had lost most of their teeth, and there was much talk about someday getting enough money to buy a set of false teeth. Interestingly, in this era, many of the older men had dental plates, but the women did not.

My father's 85-year-old uncle died around 1950, and I went to his estate sale with two quarters in my pocket hoping to buy a hot dog or barbeque sandwich. The auctioneer put Uncle Bill's set of false teeth up for sale and no one bid on them. When the auctioneer asked if anyone wanted them for 25 cents, I forgot about the food and could not pass up this bargain, having heard the old women talk about false teeth costing \$300 or \$400.

I could not believe my good fortune and ran the whole half-mile home to bask in my mother's praise for the prudent, mature and valuable purchase. Her initial response, to my surprise, was to tell my daddy to immediately bury the set of teeth in the orchard. To her dying day, she never explained why she then chastised me for foolishness and wasting money.

*Sonny Koontz  
Thomasville | EnergyUnited*

## Coca

It was the early 1960s when my husband took my parents and me on our first trip to the "Big Apple." It was such an exciting time and a good break from tending four young daughters.

Television and radio game shows were just beginning, and we were fortunate to participate on both. The Coca-Cola TV-sponsored show "Finders Keepers" was one that played music to give clues for finding something hidden. "When My Sugar Walks Down the Street" led me to the sugar canister, and I won the game. My choice of rewards was a cute, little white puppy or a watch. Thinking of my four little girls, and despite my husband's objection, I chose the puppy.

Yes, the puppy was car sick all the way home. Nevertheless, seeing four excited little girls awaiting souvenirs, and the years of joy Coca contributed to our family, made all our efforts worthwhile.

*Mary Southerland  
Henderson*

## Scorpie

Our grandson Nolan asked us to bring him a real live scorpion after hearing us say we were going out West. We promised we would try to get one for him.

While digging for dinosaur bones one day, my husband cried out, "Bring a cup of some kind!" I grabbed a cup and found my husband going after a scorpion. He said, "What a souvenir this will make for Nolan!"

We bought a container and put dirt, rocks and water into it. Being a woman, I don't like seeing a bug, but there I was collecting bugs and putting them into the container for the spider we had now named Scorpie.

After three weeks, we arrived home and gave Nolan his souvenir. Several months later, we received a phone call from Nolan: "Guess what? Scorpie had babies!"

What a surprise. We had taken a pregnant scorpion from out West and brought it to North Carolina. Later, Nolan told us a pet store gave him \$45 for each scorpion, and there were a dozen little Scorpies.

*Jewell Ross  
Kings Mountain | Rutherford EMC*



Thanks to everyone who sent us their stories about souvenirs. You can see more on our Web site. Next month we'll publish your reports on how you have saved energy. (Deadline was March 15.) To see the other themes and rules of our :Nothing Could Be Finer" series, go to page 17.



## An environmental statement

This came from the beach in Mexico 12 years ago. I saw this rope which had seashells and other debris attached to it, plus other trash lying around. Instantly I wanted to incorporate it all into a work of art. After returning home, I created a mask, which I attached to a piece of plywood. I then attached the rope and other debris (including a syringe) in such a way as to communicate the fact that we are strangling on our own waste, and it is killing us.



I have been an artist and environmental activist for many years, and this is a message that gets more urgent every year. I wish I could have made it in such a way as to show that we are also killing off life in the oceans.

*Cynthia Strain  
Highlands*

## The old plow

The stupidest thing I ever brought home was an old 3-wheel plow that I begged my mom to get me at an auction in West Virginia. I was 14 at the time and we always raised a garden on that hill in West Virginia.

I had a 16-year-old brother, Ernie, who got the old plow out at planting time, and it was hard to push along. So he hooked me up to the big wheel and away we went around that hill. It wasn't too hard on him. He hollered to me to "go right, go left." Oh, what a headache and back ache I had.

*Jean Smith  
Monroe | Union Power*

## Presents from England

In April 1977, I was a junior in high school and was fortunate to travel to England. My parents worked hard saving their money for this once-in-a-lifetime trip, and I was determined to bring them back very nice souvenirs.

I bought two pieces of Royal Crown Derby English bone china from Stratford-Avon for my mother. She loved it!

As for my dad, well, let's just say I was so proud of his gift. I shopped at Harrods and bought him a genuine leather wallet for 20 pounds, which was equal to \$40 during that time. I presented him with the souvenir, wearing a big smile from ear to ear. He opened it and smiled and then laughed as he looked at the back. Much to my surprise were the following words embossed in the leather "Made in Canada."

*Tammy Johnson  
Snow Hill | Pitt & Greene EMC*

## D.C. feet memento

During the mid-1970s my church took a three-day trip to Washington, D.C. My husband could not go, so just my son and I went. I got a new pair of shoes for the trip.

We toured like crazy—the monuments, U.S. Mint, gardens, Smithsonian, The Capitol. My new shoes were hurting my feet so much, I took them off for a break. Then a security officer from the Smithsonian told me I had to put them back on.



Well, I went into a gift shop and this is what I found: a set of salt and pepper shakers shaped like a pair of feet. I certainly thought they were appropriate when I read the message.

*Marie Tyson  
Farmville | Pitt & Greene EMC*

## Sisters in business class



This is a photo of me on an airplane. I posed alongside my sister after a 14 ½ -hour flight. At first, the idea of a picture didn't seem that bad. My sister and I were excited! We couldn't wait to tell our mom and dad and all our friends. They would never believe that we were bumped up into business class without proof, but hey, here it was! Unfortunately, we looked like zombies. We had to pretend that we were "doing business" in business class, and instead we looked like two sisters who were suffering from insomnia. ☹

*Ananya Mallavarapu  
Matthews*

## Send us your best Earn \$50

Here are the themes in our "Nothing Could Be Finer" series. Send us your stories and pictures about these themes. If yours is chosen for publication, we'll send you \$50. You don't have to be the best writer. Just tell it from your heart.

### June 2007 One Time at Summer Camp

Your best summer camp story. Send photos, if you have any. *Deadline: April 15*

### July 2007 Before Farmers Markets

Your stories of buying and selling farm products in the old days. *Deadline: May 15*

### August 2007 The Class Prank

What's the best one you ever heard? *Deadline: June 15*

### The Rules

1. Approximately 200 words or less.
2. One entry per household per month.
3. Photos are welcome. Digital photos must be 300 dpi and actual size.
4. E-mailed or typed, if possible. Otherwise, make it legible.
5. Include your name, electric co-op, mailing address and phone number.
6. If you want your entry returned, please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope. (We will not return others.)
7. We pay \$50 for each submission published. We retain reprint rights.
8. We will post on our Web site more entries than we publish, but can't pay for those submissions. (Let us know if you don't agree to this.)
9. Send to: Nothing Finer, Carolina Country, 3400 Sumner Blvd., Raleigh, NC 27616  
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As a member of the community of jewelers, I have the opportunity to frequently visit Antwerp, Belgium, the Diamond Capitol of the World. All of the most renowned jewelers buy their best diamonds here. My 5th generation Belgium gem broker is at the top of his trade and enjoys finding a special gem with a certain size, shape, color and clarity—he doesn't trade in what is available on the local market. Recently he was excited to discover a hoard of the most sought after diamonds today: Canary and Fancy Yellow diamonds. Many people find yellow diamonds more desirable than any other color due to their inherently warm optic color.

During our visit, he proudly displayed a brilliant round-cut Canary diamond, explaining that natural yellow color diamonds are 10,000 times more rare than their brilliant white, colorless counterparts. Turning the stone in the light, he said the intensity of color is of paramount importance, and clarity increases the

inherent value of a high-quality color diamond. He said this fine Canary Yellow gemstone, framed by two white diamonds, should retail for at least \$10,000. As my broker admired this treasure, I decided now was the time for a little amusement.



### Our Natural Mined Canary Ring

*Fancy Yellow Round-Cut Diamond (.67 carats):*

Natural yellow color  
Clarity rating: VS

*Two Companion White Round-Cut Diamonds (.49 total carats):*

Color rating: G-H  
Clarity rating: Si1

*Setting: Platinum and 18K gold*

As he glanced away, I placed a similarly colored lab-created DiamondAura yellow stone next to the natural mined diamond. My broker thought he was seeing double. I asked him to choose the mined diamond, but he said he could only guess. After close examination he was astonished—the faultless, lab-created stone was so visually similar in almost every way! He started to wonder about the future of the diamond business.

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The center canary stone will tantalize the eyes with its radiating color as the two white DiamondAura stones that surround it glint and sparkle upon your hand. The band is .925 sterling silver that won't tarnish over time. Truly affordable elegance!

**Bring the beauty of a radiant sunrise to your own collection.** If your ship has already come in, we will gladly sell you the ring with the natural mined Canary Yellow diamond at a cost of \$10,000. But the labs at DiamondAura give you a more affordable option at **only \$149.85**. The choice is yours! Wear the DiamondAura Canary Ring for 30 days. If for any reason you are not satisfied with your DiamondAura purchase, or you experience any defects in these faultless, lab-created stones, simply return them to us for a full refund of the purchase price.

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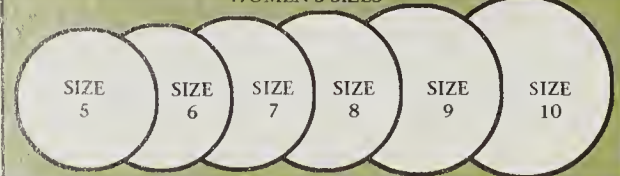
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Size circle diagram

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# Getting To Know...

## Bill Friday

**Born:** William "Bill" Clyde Friday on July 13, 1920, in Raphine, Va.

**Known for:** President of the University of North Carolina system, 1956–1986.

**Accomplishments:** Bill Friday grew up in the small town of Dallas near Gastonia. He graduated from North Carolina State University in 1941 with a bachelor's degree in textile engineering. From 1942 to 1946, Bill took an intermission from academics to serve as a lieutenant in the United States Naval Resources. In 1948 he graduated with a law degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, then served as assistant dean of students at UNC-Chapel Hill for three years, then as the assistant to President Gordon Gray from 1951 to 1955. His 30-year tenure as president is the longest of any U.S. university president. He is noted for leading the school through one of the most tumultuous times in American history. As head of the William R. Kenan, Jr. Fund and the Kenan Charitable Trust, he led a campaign to alleviate poverty, improve literacy rates and health care. In 1991 UNC-Chapel Hill opened the Friday Center, a continuing education facility in his honor. He remains an influential voice and beloved public figure, and hosts the UNC-TV public talk show "North Carolina People."



Keith Simmons



Lake Tillery

## The roads less traveled

The next time you are in your car, enjoy a road less traveled by taking a North Carolina scenic byway. The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) has designated 48 byways as state scenic treasures and published a 152-page book called "North Carolina Scenic Byways."

North Carolina byways range from three to 173 miles throughout the mountains, Piedmont and coastal plains. The byways not only showcase the state's natural beauty, but they also provide safe, alternate routes of travel in comparison to faster-paced highways. Visitors and residents alike can also learn about North Carolina history, geography and culture while raising awareness for the protection and preservation of these areas.

"North Carolina's Scenic Byways" gained national attention when it was reviewed by The New York Times. There is also a teacher's guide that offers hands-on lesson plans and activities to teach the geographical, historical and cultural significance of the byways.

You can see the entire guide and the teacher's guide at [www.ncdot.org/doh/operations/dp\\_chief\\_eng/roadside/scenic](http://www.ncdot.org/doh/operations/dp_chief_eng/roadside/scenic).

## Field Trip Fun

### SCHIELE MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY



At the Schiele Museum of Natural History, visitors can get toe to claw, nose to gill and finger to stinger with wildlife. The museum's three-dimensional dioramas include habitats of the North Carolina coast, coastal plains, hills, Piedmont and mountains, along with North American wildlife such as bears, bison, moose and elk. The museum, located in Gastonia, also offers the Lynn Planetarium, where up to 150 participants can view the night sky and learn about the universe. An array of multimedia projectors and special

effects offers an educational experience that lasts around 45 minutes. Call (704) 866-6900 or visit [www.schielemuseum.org](http://www.schielemuseum.org).

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## Greene County inn and farm

The historic Benjamin W. Best Country Inn and Carriage House recently opened for guest lodging, as well as for authentic farm vacations, weddings, retreats, family reunions and other events. It is the only public lodging house in Greene County and is served by Pitt & Greene EMC.

Built around 1850, the house was once the center of a 900-acre plantation. In the 1990s, its owners needed more farmland and had no use for the building. Osmond and Mary Betty Kearney bought the place in 1998 and moved it 11 miles to its current location on their farm, and they went about carefully restoring it.

The Best house rooms have an elegant country décor and are fully equipped with satellite TV and wireless Internet. As a private cottage, the Carriage House is a good size for newlyweds or families. Overnight guests also are served a Southern farm breakfast.

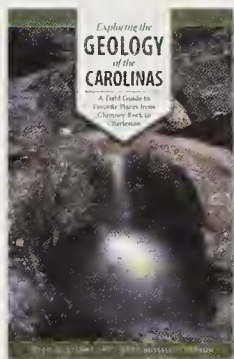
The Kearneys have developed their farm for their Nooherooka Natural black angus beef cattle. Learning about natural, hormone-free beef is a bonus feature for anyone visiting the place.



Benjamin W. Best Country Inn  
2029 Mewborn Church Rd.  
Snow Hill, NC 28580  
Toll-free (866) 633-0229  
benjaminwbest@wavelengthmail.com  
www.bwbestinn.com

## "Exploring the Geology of the Carolinas"

How were the Appalachian Mountains formed? Are the barrier islands moving? This new guide pairs 31 field trips where you can see evidence of geological change with geological information about the region. Authors Kevin Stewart and Mary-Russell Roberson explain techniques used to "read" rocks, the science of plate tectonics and the formation of the Carolinas. Most of the book's field trips are in North Carolina, including jaunts to North Carolina's Grandfather Mountain, Reed Gold Mine, Raven Rock State Park and Jockey's Ridge State Park. South Carolina sites include Santee State Park. "Exploring the Geology of the Carolinas: A Field Guide to Favorite Places from Chimney Rock to Charleston" is published by University of North Carolina Press in Chapel Hill. Softcover, 320 pages, \$19.95.



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www.uncpress.unc.edu



## What's new at Birding Trail Web

Site descriptions and group maps for the coastal plain region are now available at North Carolina's Birding Trail Web site. The section provides 102 birding sites organized into 16 groups across the North Carolina coastal plain (defined as areas east of Interstate 95). Look under Trails, then Coast for links to the coastal region map, group maps (PDF format), and site descriptions (PDF format). There's also a three-page introduction containing safety and travel information. As you plan trips along the N.C. Birding Trail, you can use the Travel Resources page to search for county-specific accommodations and other travel information.

(919) 604-5183  
www.ncbirdingtrail.org

## Guide to N.C. wines

The 2007 version of "Discover North Carolina Wines" is available free from the North Carolina Wine & Grape Council. It is a guide and map for 59 vineyards and wineries in the state. The list includes contact information and driving directions for each. Many offer tours, and some have tasting rooms.



The Yadkin Valley in the northwestern part of the state is North Carolina's first federally-recognized American Viticultural Area whose ancient soils and specific climate make for an ideal place to grow wine grapes. There are more than 400 acres in production at 14 vineyards in that area alone. In January, Gov. Mike Easley reported on a study that found the industry contributes some \$813 million to the state's economy each year, ranking it 10th in the nation.

Eastern vineyards have long produced the native scuppernong, a cultivated sweet muscadine grape with a gold color. The western and Piedmont farms have been growing traditional European-type grapes and French-American hybrids including cabernet sauvignon, merlot and pinot noir.

N.C. Wine & Grape Council  
4324 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, NC 27699  
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mknight@nccommerce.com  
www.ncwine.org



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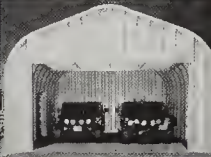
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100X100X12 w/column.....	\$ 34,872
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Oh, Kay!

Well, if you can't remember what I asked you to get me for my birthday, forget it!?



MATCHBOXES

S A E M A U R O L

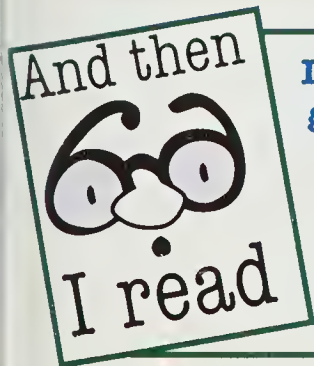
April showers bring out

X

4  
M


Match the boxes below with the boxes above to create a multiplication problem. Solve the problem and write your answer in the box tops. Then match boxes again to find the hidden answer.

1	2	3	4	5	7	8	9	0
B	S	A	M	E	R	L	U	O



Lottery chief says all goals are getting met except ticket sales ...

"We're doing one heck of a job," Executive Director Tom Shaheen told the lottery's governing board. —Asheville Citizen-Times  
He still has his sense of humor, apparently.

Phone\*etics

QZ 1	ABC 2	DEF 3
GHI 4	JKL 5	MNO 6
PRS 7	TUV 8	WXY 9
*	0	#

It's a fact:

Historians at Mount Vernon consider George Washington the founder of the

2	6	3	7	4	2	2	6	6	8	5	3
A	M	D	P	G	A	A	M	M	T	J	D
B	N	E	R	H	B	B	N	N	U	K	E
C	O	F	S	I	C	C	O	O	V	L	F

If you were to punch in the numbers above on your telephone key pad you would spell out the two missing words in this sentence.

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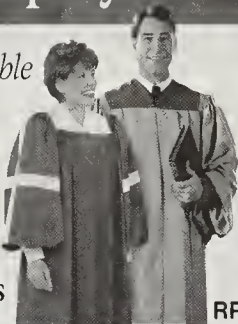
For answers, please see page 26.



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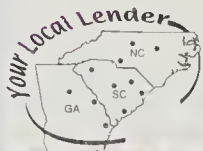
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\$100,000	\$591.54	30 YR. Fixed	5.87*	6.04%
\$150,000	\$887.31	30 YR. Fixed	5.87*	5.99%
\$200,000	\$1,104.41	5 YR ARM	5.25***	5.39%
\$200,000	\$666.50	Power Arm	1.25***	6.52%

\* Fixed Rate conforming loans for 70 LTV rate/term refinance/purchase transactions. \*\*Interest Only home equity loan, 80 LTV. Interest only payments for up to 10 years. Principle payments can be made at any time without penalty. \*\*\*ARM loans for 70 LTV rate/term refinance/purchase transactions. Power Arm payment adjusts annually while rate adjusts monthly. All rates and terms subject to differ as market conditions change. Other Rates, Terms and Products available. Call about Cash Out, Debt Consolidation, JUMBO Loans and more.



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# April Events



Stop by the 5th annual Spring Art & Garden Show on April 14 at Freechild Studio in Knightdale. Local potters will be exhibiting work for home and garden, and bedding plants will be available. To learn more, call (919) 266-5496 or visit [www.freechildstudio.com](http://www.freechildstudio.com).

## MOUNTAINS

### Street Dances

Mondays, Hendersonville  
(800) 828-4244  
[www.historichendersonville.org](http://www.historichendersonville.org)

### Music on Main Street

Fridays, Hendersonville  
(800) 828-4244  
[www.historichendersonville.org](http://www.historichendersonville.org)

### French Broad Canoe Trip

April 7, Rosman  
(828) 877-3106

### Easter Egg Hunt

April 7, Hickory  
(828) 322-1121  
[www.downtownhickory.com](http://www.downtownhickory.com)

### Easter Sunrise Service

April 8, Chimney Rock Park  
(828) 288-0785  
[www.chimneyrockpark.com](http://www.chimneyrockpark.com)

### Art Crawl

April 12, Hickory  
(828) 632-0106  
[www.downtownhickory.com](http://www.downtownhickory.com)

### Storyteller Connie Regan-Blake

April 19, Brevard  
(828) 884-2787  
[www.storywindow.com](http://www.storywindow.com)

### "Pirates of Penzance"

April 21, Spindale  
(828) 288-0785  
[www.foundationshows.org](http://www.foundationshows.org)

### Spring Fest Bluegrass Festival

April 21, Denver  
(803) 328-3224

### Hickory Hops Beer Festival

April 21, Hickory  
(828) 632-0106  
[www.hickoryhops.com](http://www.hickoryhops.com)

### Antique Vehicles

April 21, Catawba  
(828) 465-1467  
[www.foundationshows.org](http://www.foundationshows.org)

### Preservation Hall Jazz Band

April 26, Morganton  
(828) 438-5294  
[www.ci.morganton.nc.us](http://www.ci.morganton.nc.us)

### MerleFest

April 26-29, Wilkesboro  
(800) 343-7857  
[www.merlefest.org](http://www.merlefest.org)

### Regional Special Olympics

April 27, Murphy  
(828) 837-0945  
[www.cherokeecountychamber.com](http://www.cherokeecountychamber.com)

### Johnson Farm Festival

April 28, Hendersonville  
(828) 891-6585  
[www.historicjohnsonfarm.org](http://www.historicjohnsonfarm.org)

### Greening Up The Mountains Festival

April 28, Sylva  
(828) 586-1577  
[www.downtownsylva.org](http://www.downtownsylva.org)

### Wildflower Walk

April 28, Linville  
(828) 733-2013  
[www.grandfather.com](http://www.grandfather.com)

## PIEDMONT

### Music of 70's

April 1, Salisbury  
(704) 633-1474  
[www.rccamusic.com](http://www.rccamusic.com)

### Tartan Day

April 6, Raleigh  
(919) 755-8004  
[www.ncnrenfaire.com](http://www.ncnrenfaire.com)

### Easter Egg Hunt

April 7, Huntersville  
(704) 875-2312  
[www.lattaplantation.org](http://www.lattaplantation.org)

### Natural Egg Dying

April 7, High Point  
(226) 885-1859  
[www.highpointmuseum.org](http://www.highpointmuseum.org)

### Easter Egg Hunt

April 7, Albemarle  
(704) 984-9560  
[www.albemarle150.com](http://www.albemarle150.com)

### BackPack Buddies Day

April 7, Raleigh  
(919) 755-8004  
[www.ncnrenfaire.com](http://www.ncnrenfaire.com)

### Thomas & Friends Live!

April 10, Fayetteville  
(910) 438-4100  
[www.crowncoliseum.com](http://www.crowncoliseum.com)

### Glenn Davis Memorial Concert

April 10, Asheboro  
(336) 318-6814

### Garden Club Tour

April 11, Southern Pines  
(910) 295-4617  
<http://southernpinesgardenclub.com>

### Evening of Art & Jazz

April 12, Fayetteville  
(910) 822-1998  
[www.cumberland.lib.nc.us/nrl/howto\\_location](http://www.cumberland.lib.nc.us/nrl/howto_location)

### Art & Literature Reception

April 12-15, Sanford  
(919) 258-9299  
[www.atimelessplace.com](http://www.atimelessplace.com)

### Smokey Joe's Café

April 12-14, Fayetteville  
(910) 483-5311

### Folk Potters of North Carolina

April 13, Raleigh  
(919) 807-7968  
[www.ncmuseumofhistory.org](http://www.ncmuseumofhistory.org)

### ATV Drag Races

April 13-14, Oakboro  
(704) 485-4906  
[www.hinsonauction.com](http://www.hinsonauction.com)

### Studio Art & Garden Show

April 14, Knightdale  
(919) 266-5496  
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*Come see thoroughbreds compete at speeds of up to 35 miles per hour for \$100,000 in purse money at the Queen's Cup Steeplechase on April 28 in Mineral Springs. To learn more, call (704) 843-7070 or visit [www.queenscup.org](http://www.queenscup.org).*

#### **Uwharrie Scottish Festival & Games**

April 14, Albemarle  
(704) 984-9415  
[www.albemarle150.com](http://www.albemarle150.com)

#### **Work Horse & Mule Corn Planting Day**

April 14, Linden  
(910) 980-0066

#### **Battalion Field Hospital**

April 14, High Point  
(336) 885-1859  
[www.highpointmuseum.org](http://www.highpointmuseum.org)

#### **Herb & Plant Festival**

April 14, Concord/Kannapolis  
(704) 784-1925

#### **The Raleigh Ringers**

April 14, Winston-Salem  
(336) 723-6320  
[www.ncarts.edu/performances](http://www.ncarts.edu/performances)

#### **Civil War Medicine**

April 14-15, Huntersville  
(704) 875-2312  
[www.lattaplantation.org](http://www.lattaplantation.org)

#### **Spring Garden Tour**

April 15, Albemarle  
(704) 984-9415  
[www.albemarle150.com](http://www.albemarle150.com)

#### **Biographer Valerie Boyd**

April 17, Fayetteville  
(910) 483-7727  
[www.cumberland.lib.nc.us](http://www.cumberland.lib.nc.us)

#### **Spring Homeschool Day**

April 18, Huntersville  
(704) 875-2312  
[www.lattaplantation.org](http://www.lattaplantation.org)

#### **Albemarle 150th History Lesson**

April 19, Albemarle  
(704) 984-9415  
[www.albemarle150.com](http://www.albemarle150.com)

#### **Centennial Celebration**

April 20-22, Broadway  
(919) 258-9299  
[www.atimelessplace.com](http://www.atimelessplace.com)

#### **Antique Festival**

April 20-22, Oakboro  
(704) 485-4906  
[www.hinsonauction.com](http://www.hinsonauction.com)

#### **Herb Fest**

April 20-22, Wake Forest  
(919) 488-5083  
[www.herbfest.net](http://www.herbfest.net)

#### **Around the World Run**

April 21, Fayetteville  
(910) 483-5311  
[www.active.com](http://www.active.com)

#### **Averasboro Fiber Festival**

April 21, Godwin  
(910) 891-5019  
[www.averasboro.com](http://www.averasboro.com)

#### **African Americans In NC**

April 21, Fayetteville  
(910) 486-1330

#### **War For Empire 1757**

April 21-22, Statesville  
(704) 873-5882  
[www.fortdobbs.org](http://www.fortdobbs.org)

#### **Garden Tour**

April 21-22, Lexington  
(336) 731-1427

#### **Spring Kiln Opening**

April 21-22, Seagrove  
(336) 873-7304

#### **Timeless Stories**

April 22, Broadway  
(919) 258-9299  
[www.atimelessplace.com](http://www.atimelessplace.com)

#### **Creston Concert**

April 22, Fayetteville  
(910) 672-1571  
[www.uncfsu.edu](http://www.uncfsu.edu)

#### **Ballet Classics**

April 22, Fayetteville  
(910) 485-4965

#### **Fourth Friday**

April 27, Fayetteville  
(910) 483-5311  
[www.theartscouncil.com](http://www.theartscouncil.com)

#### **Antiques Festival**

April 27-28, Liberty  
(336) 622-3040

#### **Dogwood Festival**

April 27-29, Fayetteville  
(910) 483-5311  
[www.fayettevilldogwoodfestival.com](http://www.fayettevilldogwoodfestival.com)

#### **Artists Sandy Cole/Kevin Brown**

April 28, Raleigh  
(919) 807-7900  
[www.ncmuseumofhistory.org](http://www.ncmuseumofhistory.org)

#### **"Driving Miss Daisy"**

April 28, Fayetteville  
(910) 483-5311  
[www.crowncoliseum.com](http://www.crowncoliseum.com)

#### **Old Jonesville Day**

April 28, Jonesville  
(336) 835-3426

#### **Queen's Cup Steeplechase**

April 28, Mineral Springs  
(704) 843-7070  
[www.queenscup.org](http://www.queenscup.org)

#### **Militia Muster & Craft Exhibit**

April 28, Sanford  
(910) 947-2051

#### **Collectible Toy & Hobby Show**

April 28-29, Raleigh  
(919) 553-4285  
[www.insidepitch.com](http://www.insidepitch.com)

#### **Albemarle Religious Heritage**

April 29, Albemarle  
(704) 984-9415  
[www.albemarle150.com](http://www.albemarle150.com)

#### **"Ramona Quimby" play**

April 30, Yanceyville  
(336) 694-4591

## **COAST**

#### **Azalea Festival**

April 11-15, Wilmington  
(910) 341-4030  
[www.ncazaleafestival.org](http://www.ncazaleafestival.org)

#### **Kickin' Country**

April 12-22, Manteo  
(252) 475-1500  
[www.roanokeisland.com](http://www.roanokeisland.com)

#### **Duck Day**

April 14, Scotland Neck  
(252) 826-3152  
[www.townofscotlandneck.com](http://www.townofscotlandneck.com)

#### **Classical French Music**

April 14, Manteo  
(252) 475-1500  
[www.roanokeisland.com](http://www.roanokeisland.com)

#### **Rock-A-Thon & Craft Show**

April 14, Washington  
(252) 946-6208

#### **Build Your Own Kayak**

April 14, 21, 18, Roanoke Island  
(252) 475-1750  
[www.roanokeisland.com](http://www.roanokeisland.com)

#### **Lawn & Garden Expo**

April 14-15, Hertford  
(252) 426-3636



**UNC Greensboro Opera**  
April 20, Oriental  
(252) 249-3670

**"Boogie on Broad"**  
April 20, Edenton  
(252) 482-3400  
[www.visitedenton.com](http://www.visitedenton.com)

**Tour of Homes**  
April 20-21, Edenton  
(800) 775-0111  
[www.visitedenton.com](http://www.visitedenton.com)

**American Music Series**  
April 21, Edenton  
(252) 482-3400  
[www.visitedenton.com](http://www.visitedenton.com)

**Tour de Cure Cycling**  
April 21, Roanoke Island  
(757) 455-6335  
[www.roanokeisland.com](http://www.roanokeisland.com)

**Herb Festival, Antique & Craft**  
April 21, Garland  
(910) 564-5069

**Rocky Hock Opry**  
April 27, Edenton  
(252) 482-3400  
[www.visitedenton.com](http://www.visitedenton.com)

**Rejoice Dear Hearts**  
April 27-28, Manteo  
(252) 475-1500  
[www.roanokeisland.com](http://www.roanokeisland.com)

**Talent Show & Jazz Concert**  
April 27, Fort Fisher  
(910) 458-8216  
[www.visitkure.com/celebrate60.asp](http://www.visitkure.com/celebrate60.asp)

**Battleship Alive**  
April 27-28, Wilmington  
(910) 251-5797 ext. 2046  
[www.battleshipnc.com](http://www.battleshipnc.com)

**Hog Fest**  
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(252) 482-4057  
[www.visitedenton.com](http://www.visitedenton.com)

**Boat Show**  
April 27-29, Hertford  
(252) 426-3644  
[www.nencboatshow.org](http://www.nencboatshow.org)

**Fishing Tournament**  
April 28, Kure Beach  
(910) 458-8216  
[www.visitkure.com/celebrate60.asp](http://www.visitkure.com/celebrate60.asp)

**March of Dimes Walk America**  
April 28, Roanoke Island  
(757) 361-0000

**Inter-Tribal Powwow**  
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[www.capefear.org](http://www.capefear.org)

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Through May 7, Fayetteville  
(910) 485-5311  
[www.fayettevillemuseumart.org](http://www.fayettevillemuseumart.org)

**Wisconsin's Flying Trees**  
April 10-July 1, Fayetteville  
(910) 483-3003  
[www.asomf.org](http://www.asomf.org)

**Temples And Tombs**  
April 15-July 8, Raleigh  
(919) 664-6795  
[www.ncartmuseum.org](http://www.ncartmuseum.org)

**Brooklyn to Biddleville**  
Through Nov. 10, Charlotte  
(704) 568-1774  
[www.charlottesmuseum.org](http://www.charlottesmuseum.org)

**Buffalo Nation:  
Plains Indian Cultures**  
Through Dec. 31, Gastonia  
(704) 866-6923  
[www.schielemuseum.org](http://www.schielemuseum.org)

**"Women in Motorcycling  
History—1905-1955"**  
Through Spring 2007,  
Maggie Valley  
(828) 926-6266  
[www.wheelsthroughtime.com](http://www.wheelsthroughtime.com)

**Grandma Moses:  
Grandmother to the Nation**  
Through April 22,  
Winston-Salem  
(336) 758-5580

**Contemporary Art**  
Through May 7, Fayetteville  
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[www.fayettevillemuseumart.org](http://www.fayettevillemuseumart.org)

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Contemporary Narratives**  
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**Beyond the Pulpit**  
Through Aug. 5, High Point  
(336) 883-3022  
[www.highpointmuseum.org](http://www.highpointmuseum.org)

**Surviving the Great Depression**  
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[www.charlottesmuseum.org](http://www.charlottesmuseum.org)

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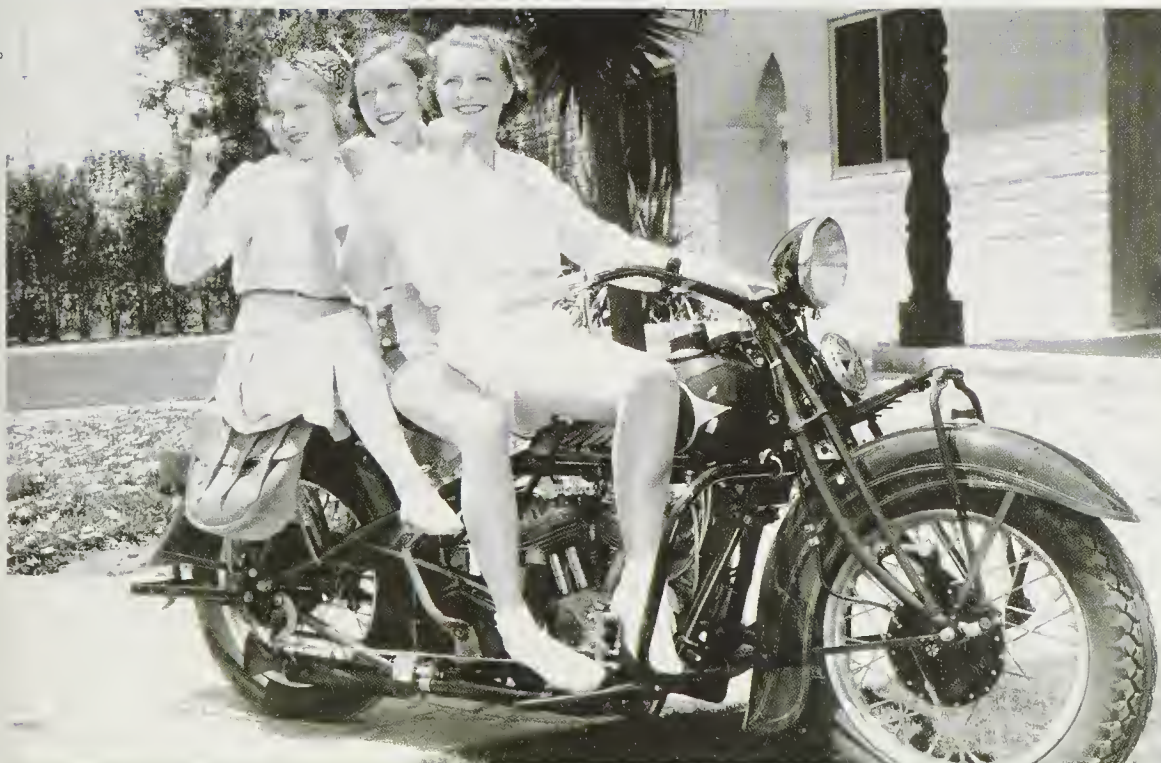
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The exhibit "Women in Motorcycling History—1905-1955" runs through Spring 2007 at The Wheels Through Time museum in Maggie Valley. Call (828) 926-6266 or visit [www.wheelsthroughtime.com](http://www.wheelsthroughtime.com) to learn more.





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## Potted figs

Mature fig trees can command a large presence in the garden, but they are also suitable for pots. With proper pruning, you can maintain a tidy specimen that produces abundant fruit and looks lovely on the patio. Besides the desire to save space, fig fanciers often turn to container culture as a way to expand the varieties of figs they can grow. Tender varieties can be moved into a basement and kept dormant during cold months. As with any potted plants, diligence with watering and fertilizing is essential since the soils dry quickly and nutrients leach from containers. Figs can be repotted in larger containers as they grow—or root-pruned so they can remain in their existing container. A container in the 15- to 20-gallon range is a typical recommendation. If you plan to move a fig indoors for winter, choose a container size that will be manageable. The North American Fruit Explorers ([www.nafex.org/figs.htm](http://www.nafex.org/figs.htm)) is an excellent resource on all aspects of fig culture.

## Sedge lawns

Homeowners often choose to plant groundcovers like ivy or vinca as a low-maintenance alternative to lawns. But some groundcovers can be invasive, and many gardeners miss the grassy look. There has been some momentum in the horticulture community toward recommending native sedges, which are closely related to grasses, as attractive substitutes for lawns. As an added bonus, many are suitable for dry, shady areas, where grass is difficult to grow. Pennsylvania sedge, *Carex pensylvanica*, is one sedge that may fill the bill in North Carolina landscapes. It is native to most of the eastern half of the United States and is frequently found in the dappled shade of oaks. About 6 to 12 inches tall, it has a lush, fine-textured appearance and spreads slowly via rhizomes to form a thick mat. The quickest, most economical way to cover a large area in sedges is to purchase and plant plugs. "Easy Lawns: Low-Maintenance Native Grasses for Gardeners Everywhere," published by the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, provides information on how to select, plant and maintain sedges and other native groundcovers. The book is available from BBG for \$8.95. Selected chapters may be viewed free online at [www.bbg.org/gar2/topics/sustainable/handbooks/lawns/index.html](http://www.bbg.org/gar2/topics/sustainable/handbooks/lawns/index.html).

## Hort shorts

- ▶ Nasturtiums are versatile annuals that bloom in an array of vivid and pastel colors and have beautiful round leaves. The buds, flowers and leaves add a peppery zing to fresh salads. Nasturtiums perform well in average soil in pots or beds. In fact, too much fertilizer will promote foliage growth at the expense of blooms. Give them plenty of water and full sun (with a little afternoon protection in hot climates). Compact and trailing varieties are available.
- ▶ Seed fallow spots in vegetable beds with a thick cover of peas or beans to suppress weeds and fix nitrogen in the soil.



Hobby beekeepers can get started with a single hive and colony for as little as \$175.

- ▶ Leaf lettuce is the ultimate cut-and-come-again garden veggie. Leaves can be harvested to the base of the plant as needed, and a new "salad" will soon return. Look for the popular mesclun or baby lettuce seed mixes for a quick-growing gourmet treat. Plant this cool-season crop as soon as the soil can be worked in spring.

## Backyard beekeeping

Few beneficial insects are as conspicuous as the honey-bee, a critical crop pollinator and common garden visitor. So it's no surprise that gardening and beekeeping make a sweet marriage. Hobby beekeepers can get started with a single hive and colony for as little as \$175. The N.C. Master Beekeeper Program, the largest program of its kind in the United States, offers instruction free to any North Carolina resident interested in bees, whether for fun or for profit. For more information, contact your Cooperative Extension office or visit [www.cals.ncsu.edu/entomology/apiculture](http://www.cals.ncsu.edu/entomology/apiculture). Another source of assistance is the N.C. State Beekeepers Association ([www.ncbeekeepers.org](http://www.ncbeekeepers.org)), which has chapters in 78 counties and offers courses statewide. 🐝



Carla Burgess can be reached at [ncgardenshare@mindspring.com](mailto:ncgardenshare@mindspring.com).

For more gardening advice, go to the "Carolina Gardens" section of [www.carolinacountry.com](http://www.carolinacountry.com).



# Assessing savings on energy tax credits

My readers have been wondering about the new energy tax credits for home improvements, what improvements they cover and whether or not the credits are an incentive financially. Unfortunately, in my opinion, the credits are not large enough to provide a real incentive toward energy-saving improvements, unless they were already first planned.

Contractors and manufacturers say they have not seen a significant increase in sales of efficiency items as a result of the credits. One problem is people may not realize these are tax credits and not tax deductions. A tax credit actually reduces your tax bill by the total amount of the credit. A tax deduction reduces just the taxable base, so the actual savings depends upon your specific tax bracket. The tax credit amount is listed on line 52 of federal tax form 1040, and you must also complete tax form 5695 to calculate the tax credit.

The Energy Policy Act of 2005 covers most typical energy conservation improvements to your home. These include insulation, replacement windows and improvements, doors, metal roofing, heating and cooling systems, water heaters and solar systems. In most cases, the improvements must meet the 2000 IECC (International Energy Conservation Code) specifications.

Many energy tax credits are for approximately 10 percent of the installed cost, but some are substantially less. The maximum total tax credit allowed for the two-year period is \$500, regardless of how many efficiency improvements you make.

Using alternative fuels and heating provides the largest tax credit of 30 percent, up to a maximum of \$2,000. These include solar water heating and photovoltaics (solar cells), as well as fuel cells for producing your own electricity at home. For many homes, even with a \$2,000 tax credit, the economic payback for these alternative fuel improvements is a relatively long period. Solar water heating is the one exception where it is economically feasible for most homes.

Tax credits for the alternative fuels improvements mentioned above were extended into the 2008 tax year. Most other residential efficiency improvements must be installed before the end of 2007 unless the Congress acts to extend them.

Door improvements provide a higher maximum tax credit than replacement windows. In general, replacing windows will save more energy, but it's a more expensive improvement project. Installing efficient exterior doors and/or storm doors receives a credit of 10 percent of the costs, up to a \$500 maximum credit. Installing efficient windows, skylights, and storm windows receives a \$200 maximum credit.

If you need a new roof, consider installing residential metal roofing materials. This is economically and environmentally a good decision because metal roofs last a lifetime and you will receive a \$500 tax credit. Metal roofs get a tax




*New efficient replacement windows get up to a \$200 tax credit. Notice the slight reflectivity indicating they have a low-emissivity coating.*

credit because they block heat from the sun, so air-conditioning energy usage is lower.

Installing a new heat pump (air-to-air or geothermal) provides up to a \$300 credit compared to a new gas or oil furnace (efficiency of 95 percent) for only a \$150 credit. Make sure the efficiencies (HSPF and SEER) of the heat pump you install are high enough to qualify for the tax credit.

Adding an efficient blower motor to the new furnace or heat pump qualifies for a tax credit of \$50. The blower motor must not use more than 2 percent of the heating system's total energy use. This usually means only a variable-speed blower motor qualifies. These motors are efficient and improve comfort, but they cost several hundred dollars more than a standard blower motor.

Installing an efficient gas, oil or propane water heater provides a \$300 credit. Standard tank-type electric water heaters are not included because they all are reasonably efficient. If you have an electric water heater, you can get a \$300 tax credit by installing a heat pump water heater.

Send your inquiries to James Dulley, Carolina Country, 6906 Royalgreen Dr., Cincinnati, OH 45244 or visit [www.dulley.com](http://www.dulley.com). 

*James Dulley is an engineer and syndicated columnist for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.*

Learn more about energy tax credits at the Alliance to Save Energy Web site: [www.ase.org/content/article/detail/2654](http://www.ase.org/content/article/detail/2654)



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### Flavorful Pot Roast

- 2 boneless beef chuck roasts (2½ pounds each)
- 1 envelope ranch salad dressing mix
- 1 envelope Italian salad dressing mix
- 1 envelope brown gravy mix
- ½ cup water

Place the chuck roasts in a 5-quart slow cooker. In a small bowl, combine the salad dressing and gravy mixes; stir in water. Pour over meat. Cover and cook on low for 7–8 hours or until tender. If desired, thicken cooking juices for gravy.

*Yield: 12–15 servings*



### Cheddar Taters

- 1 can (10¾ ounces) condensed cream of chicken soup, undiluted
- 1 can (12 ounces) evaporated milk
- 1 cup (8 ounces) sour cream
- ½ cup butter or margarine, melted
- 1 teaspoon onion powder
- 1 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1 package (32 ounces) frozen Tater Tots
- 1½ cups (6 ounces) shredded cheddar cheese
- 1 cup crushed potato chips

Combine first six ingredients. Stir in Tater Tots. Transfer to a greased 13-by-9-by-2-inch baking dish. Sprinkle with cheese and potato chips. Bake, uncovered, at 350 degrees for 30–35 minutes or until bubbly.

*Yield: 8–10 servings*

Recipes are by Taste of Home magazine. For a sample copy, send \$2 to Taste of Home, Suite 4321, PO Box 990, Greendale WI 53129-0990. Visit the Web page at [www.tasteofhome.com](http://www.tasteofhome.com)



Find more than 300 recipes at [www.carolinacountry.com](http://www.carolinacountry.com)



### German Chocolate Bars

- 1 package (18¼ ounces) German chocolate cake mix
- ⅔ cup cold butter or margarine
- 1 cup (6 ounces) semisweet chocolate chips
- 1 can (15 ounces) coconut-pecan frosting
- ¼ cup milk

Place cake mix in a bowl; cut in butter until crumbly. Press 2½ cups into a greased 13-by-9-by-2-inch baking pan. Bake at 350 degrees for 10 minutes; immediately sprinkle with chocolate chips. Drop frosting by tablespoons over the chips. Stir milk into the remaining crumb mixture; drop by teaspoonful over top.

Bake 25–30 minutes longer or until bubbly around the edges and top is cracked. Cool on a wire rack. Refrigerate for 4 hours before cutting.

*Yield: 4 dozen*

## Winning reader recipe

### Bubbly Peach Pull-Aparts

- 1 large can butter-me-not biscuits

*Mix together:*

- ¼ cup granulated sugar
- 1 tablespoons cinnamon
- ½ stick butter or margarine
- 1 large can (28 ounce) of diced peaches in heavy syrup

*Glaze (mix together):*

- ½ box (8 ounces) confectioner's sugar
- ½ stick butter or margarine, melted
- 1 teaspoon vanilla

Cut each biscuit into 4 pieces and toss in cinnamon, sugar mixture. Place in a 9-by-13-inch baking dish. Pour diced peaches over biscuits and dot with butter. Bake at 350 degrees for 15–20 minutes, until bubbly and biscuits are golden brown. Drizzle with glaze and pull apart and enjoy!

*Sharondria Thomas, a member of EnergyUnited, will receive \$25 for submitting this recipe.*

### Send Us Your Recipes

Contributors whose recipes are published will receive \$25. We retain reprint rights for all submissions. Include your name, address, phone number (if we have questions), and the name of your electric cooperative. Mail to: Carolina Country Kitchen, P.O. Box 27306, Raleigh, NC 27611 or E-mail to: [Jenny.Lloyd@carolinacountry.com](mailto:Jenny.Lloyd@carolinacountry.com)



# Consider the grounds

(and we don't mean coffee)

when planning B&B getaway in N.C.

North Carolina's bed & breakfasts offer a wide range of experiences. In North Carolina they are nestled in lush valleys, sit atop mountains, view lakes, rivers and oceans and enliven historic districts.

B&Bs and inns can be a welcome alternative from the standard motel. They often offer better food and ambience and an easy walk to attractions. Proprietors are glad to share insider recommendations for eating, shopping and sightseeing. Sometimes B&B's are less expensive to stay at than hotels. B&Bs offer rooms and breakfast—but they differ enormously in room accommodations, fare served and the innkeepers' own brand of hospitality.

Outdoor settings range, too, and a pretty garden can be part of a B&B's on-site amenities. Exploring landscaped grounds, hearing a waterfall, seeing colorful flowers, literally taking the time to smell the roses, can be inspiring and relaxing for travelers on the go. If they garden, they take home inspiring new ideas for their own yards.

The Web site [www.BnBfinder.com/Gardens](http://www.BnBfinder.com/Gardens) is among sites where you can specifically search for B&B's with gardens in North Carolina, along with other states.

Here are just a few North Carolina B&Bs that make gardens one of their specialties:

—Karen Olson House



*The Mast Farm Inn, located near Boone and Blowing Rock, is also a small organic farm.*



## *Pecan Tree Inn*

116 Queen Street  
Beaufort, NC 28516  
(800) 728-7871, (252) 728-6733  
[www.pecantree.com](http://www.pecantree.com)

Located in Beaufort's Historic District near the scenic yacht harbor, the inn has an impressive 5,000-square-foot English flower and herb garden open to the public. The garden's intersecting stone paths frame an array of colorful annuals, perennials and shrubs.

## *The Mast Farm Inn*

2543 Broadstone Road  
PO Box 704, Valle Crucis, NC 28691  
(888) 963-5857, (828) 963-5857  
[www.mastfarminn.com](http://www.mastfarminn.com)

The Mast Farm Inn, located near Boone and Blowing Rock, is also a small organic farm. It has organic herb, vegetable and flower gardens, and a berry orchard. The farmer/gardener there coordinates with the Mast Farm Inn's chef on what herbs and vegetables to grow and serve.

## *Duke Mansion*

400 Hermitage Rd, Charlotte, NC 28207  
(888) 202-1009, (704) 714-4400  
[www.dukemansion.com](http://www.dukemansion.com)

Duke Mansion in Charlotte has four and a half acres of well-maintained gardens, including colorful tulips. Only two miles from the business and cultural district, grounds include a garden terrace, back garden and pool.

## *1889 WhiteGate Inn & Cottage*


173 E Chestnut Street, Asheville, NC 28801  
(800) 485-3045, (828) 253-2553  
[www.whitegate.net](http://www.whitegate.net)

Whitegate Inn & Cottage's award-winning gardens include 18 varieties of Japanese maples and 300 varieties of perennials, hostas, roses and herbs.

## *Highland Lake Inn*

P.O. Box 1026, Flat Rock, NC 28731  
(800) 635-5101, (828) 693-6812  
[www.hlinn.com](http://www.hlinn.com)



Historic Highland Lake Inn rests in a country setting of 26 gently wooded acres. Amenities include organic garden tours and classes with tips on using fresh herbs, vegetables and flowers. 

Visit [www.BnBfinder.com/Gardens](http://www.BnBfinder.com/Gardens) to search for B&B's with gardens in North Carolina.



# Travel through time

## at historic battle sites



National Park Service

*Gettysburg National Military Park is marked with more than 1,300 monuments, including 400 major sculptures—the largest collection of outdoor sculpture in the world.*

The U.S. National Park Service has developed numerous historical sites to explore. Here are two of its battlefield treasures that await time travelers like you this summer:

### Gettysburg National Military Park

The country had a fateful clash in July 1863 when the Union and Confederate armies met at the Battle of Gettysburg. The Union victory ended Confederacy hopes for independence.

Today, the 6,000-acre battlefield park in Gettysburg, Pa., preserves the historic battle scene, along with many of the 22 farms that existed then.

#### What to see and do

The site lends itself to walkers, bikers and even horseback riders—36 miles of historic avenues lead visitors around the park.

“It’s when you step away from your car and get off the roadway and start walking into those fields or woods, that’s when you get a better sense of the soldier’s perspective,” says Katie Lawhon, public affairs specialist with the park.

The rural landscape is marked with more than 1,300 monuments, including 400 major sculptures and more than 400 Civil War cannons. Lawhon says Gettysburg has the largest collection of outdoor sculpture in the world.

From mid-June to mid-August, rangers lead battlefield walks, giving more than 20 interpretive talks a day. Weekend encampments by Civil War re-enactors are held April through October. Visits can include a stop at the Soldiers’ National Cemetery where 3,500 Union soldiers were buried and where President Abraham Lincoln delivered his famous Gettysburg Address on Nov. 19, 1863.

Park entrance is free. For more, [www.nps.gov/gett/index.htm](http://www.nps.gov/gett/index.htm) or (717) 334-1124, ext. 431.

### Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument

In 1876, two cultures clashed in a struggle on the rolling prairies of Montana. Some 263 soldiers and other U.S. Army personnel died at the hands of several thousand Lakota and Cheyenne warriors.

The site is preserved by the National Park Service as the Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument. “It was considered the high water mark of the Indian wars, just like Gettysburg was considered the high mark of the Civil War. A lot of important people were in the battle,” says Ken Woody, chief of interpretation at the site. “The site memorializes the last armed effort of the Northern Plains Indians to preserve their way of life.”

#### What to see and do

Two areas of Little Bighorn near Crow Agency, Mont., encompass 765 acres: the Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument where the battle ended and the Reno-Benteen Battlefield five miles to the south where the battle began. The monument’s visitor center displays personal possessions of Lt. Col. George A. Custer and depicts the lives of American Indians and U.S. Army scouts.




National Park Service

*The Montana prairie is dotted with Battle of the Little Bighorn grave markers.*

A memorial on Last Stand Hill stands over the mass grave of the Seventh Cavalry soldiers, U.S. Army scouts and other personnel. During the summer, ranger talks every 45 minutes focus on the battle, soldiers and American Indian encampments.

“We really hope to break the myths that surround the battle,” Woody says. “Everyone here was doing what they thought was right.”

Entrance fees vary. For more, visit [www.nps.gov/libi](http://www.nps.gov/libi) or call (406) 638-3204. 



# How to eat healthy

## while traveling



**T**raveling often means we leave our healthy eating habits at home. A little planning will keep healthy food “at the ready” during your next vacation.

To stay hydrated and fueled, we need to eat and drink at regular intervals. Avoid getting too hungry or overeating foods contributing only calories and few essential nutrients.

Remember that adults are role models for kids. Limit soft drinks and other sweetened beverages, as well as chips and other really salty snacks. These widely used snacks have little or no nutritional value and lots of empty calories. Here are ideas for nutritious beverages and food to carry instead:

- Pack a water bottle for each traveler. Use smaller containers for children. One cup of water per hour could be a goal for adults.
- Pack nutritious fruit munchies in sandwich bags or small containers. Choices include grapes, cherry toma-

toes and tangerine, orange and apple slices. For longer trips, bring whole fruit for each day’s journey.

- Good cut-up vegetables to bring include green peppers, carrots, cauliflower or broccoli. These items can be mixed together in a bag for a quick, mini-salad or packed inside pita bread.
- Bring celery sticks with peanut butter “spooned” in their hollows.
- Bring small peanut butter and jelly sandwiches on whole-grain bread. Honey and almond butter sandwiches are another portable option.
- Make or buy a trail mix of seeds, nuts and dried fruit. Dried fruit options include blueberries, apples and mangos. Seed choices include sunflower and pumpkin.
- Nutritious foods in individual serving sizes include individually wrapped cheese sticks and small boxes of raisins.

Be careful about food safety, especially traveling in summer heat. Use cold packs in insulated containers for perishable foods. For longer trips, the cold packs need to be refrozen each evening. Remember the old adage: “If in doubt, throw it out.”

### *Saving fuel on the road*

You can cut gas consumption and save money during your vacations by taking these inexpensive maintenance steps and driving precautions with your vehicle.

#### **Check your vehicle**

- Inflate the tires to vehicle specifications. If unsure, consult your owner’s manual. Sometimes the tire pressure is also printed on the inside of the door on the driver’s side. Proper tire tread and air pressure will save fuel.
- Adhere to routine maintenance outlined in the owner’s manual. Spark plugs should be replaced regularly—a dirty spark plug causes misfiring, which wastes fuel. Replacing a clogged air filter can improve gas mileage by as much as 10 percent.
- Check the gas cap. If it’s damaged or loose, replace it.
- Lighten your vehicle. Open your trunk and discard items you won’t need, except emergency tools and materials.

#### **Drive efficiently**

- Avoid quick starts and sudden stops. This wastes fuel and is harder on vehicle parts.
- Don’t drive aggressively. Observe the speed limits and try to maintain a constant speed.
- Avoid excessive idling. Ⓢ



# *This summer, take the byway,* not the highway

U.S. Department of Transportation



*Clouds loom over a great forest as far as the eye can see from Cumberland Gap, part of the Wilderness Road Heritage Scenic Byway.*

Whether you're craving an outdoor adventure, tracing the paths of early explorers or just looking for some quirky fun, America's byways pave the pathway to fun.

The National Scenic Byways Program provides detailed vacation ideas for interesting routes and sites across the United States. Byway routes include scenic roads with archaeological, cultural, historical, natural and recreational attractions. Here are just a few vacation ideas:

## *Standing Rock Native American Scenic Byway* North & South Dakota

The 86 miles of the Standing Rock Native American Scenic Byway are within the borders of the Standing Rock Reservation, offering breathtaking scenery in both North Dakota and South Dakota. Visitors gain insight into the ancient culture of the American Indians: their traditions, their history and their way of life.

"The Standing Rock Native American Scenic Byway offers access to authentic history and culture of the Lakota/Dakota people along with casino entertainment, food and lodging and uncrowded outdoor recreation," says Pamela Ternes, the byway's coordinator.

The route begins on the northern edge of the Standing Rock Reservation near Cannonball, N.D., and ends just before Mobridge, S.D. The route shares the territory and stories of explorers Meriwether Lewis and William Clark, their guide, Sacagawea, Sitting Bull, the Missouri River and the ecology of the plains.

For local information, call (701) 854-3861.

## *Wilderness Road Heritage Scenic Byway* Kentucky

Perhaps the Wilderness Road Heritage Scenic Byway's most compelling feature is its bounty of historical sites. From American Indians to European pioneers to Civil War soldiers, many cultures have left their mark in the area.

The Wilderness Road Heritage Scenic Highway begins at the Cumberland Gap National Historic Park. Daniel Boone explored here, and his legacy is everywhere. You'll have a chance to retrace the steps of the intrepid Boone and the subsequent pioneers on the Sheltowee Trace National Recreation Trail, part of which crosses the byway. Traversing the entire length of Daniel Boone National Forest, the Sheltowee is an epic journey through more than 300 miles of scenic and historically rich terrain.

The Cumberland Gap was a key transportation route in the American Civil War, and was fought over throughout the war. The first battle of the Civil War was fought at Camp Wildcat, located along the Wilderness Road Heritage Highway. A re-enactment of this battle is a popular event in the fall.

For local information, call (606) 677-6095.

## *Fun byways*

- In New Mexico, travelers can check out the **Billy the Kid Trail**. Named after the notorious outlaw, this byway goes through the one-street town of Lincoln where "the Kid" made his famous last escape. Kids will love visiting the hotel room where he slept, and Billy the Kid's bullet hole is still visible in the courthouse wall.
- For a quirky stop, comic book fans will enjoy visiting the self-proclaimed hometown of Superman in Metropolis, Ill., along the **Ohio River Scenic Byway**, which winds through Illinois, Indiana and Ohio.
- Condiment cravers can gaze in awe at a 170-foot-tall bottle of catsup along the **Historical National Road** in Illinois. In 2002, it was named to the National Register of Historic Places and is also in the Guinness Book of World Records.

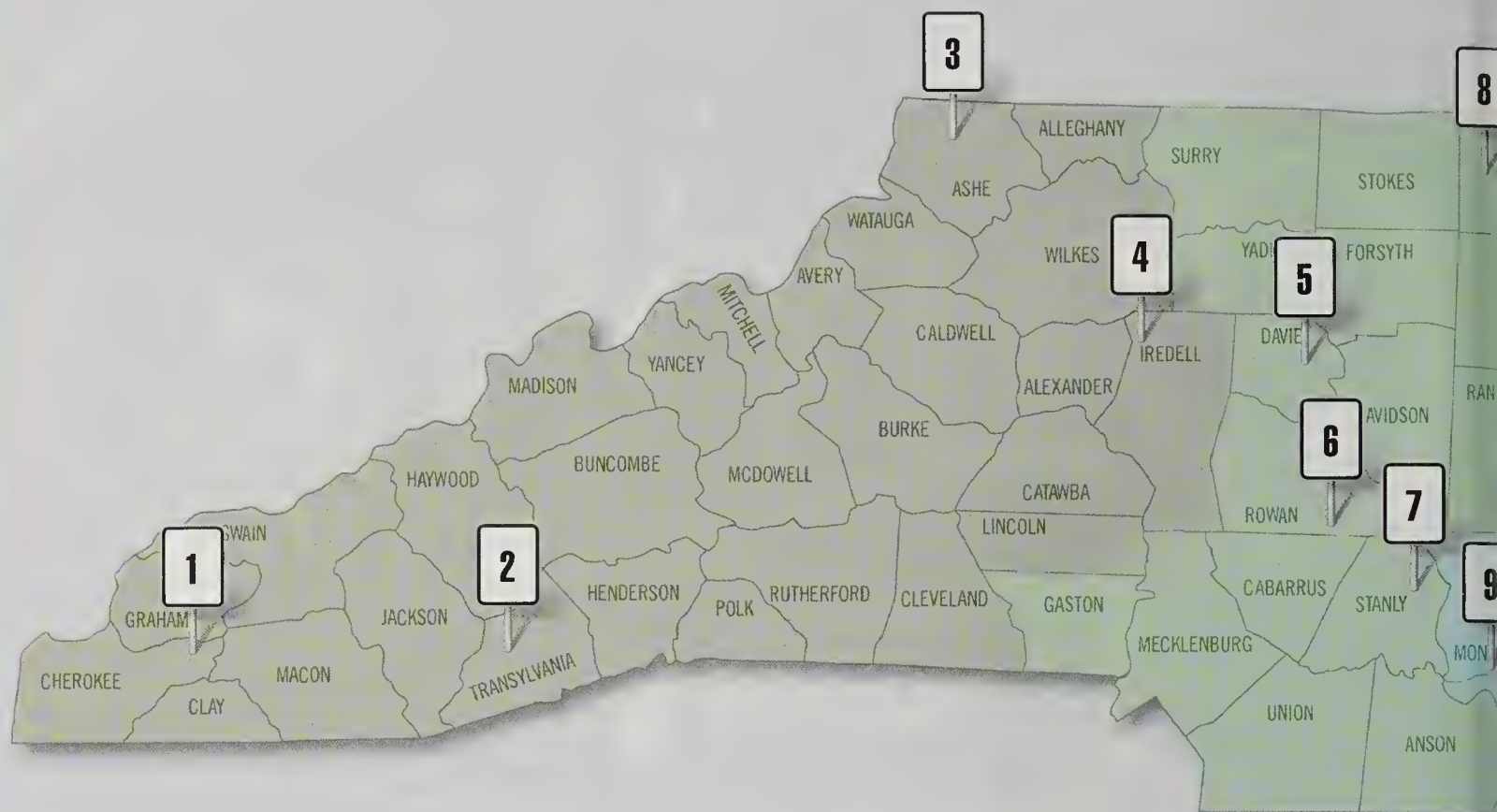
To learn more about National Scenic Byways, visit [www.byways.org](http://www.byways.org). 



# Carolina country

ADVENTURES AHEAD ↘





## 20 CAROLINA COUNTRY ADVENTURES AHEAD



From one end to the other, North Carolina is about as diverse as any state in the nation. We've got hard gemstones in the west, soft crabs on the coast and red clay in the middle. The tobacco we grow in the mountains is different than what we grow in the east. What we live in, how we drive, what we eat and how we talk varies from one region to another.

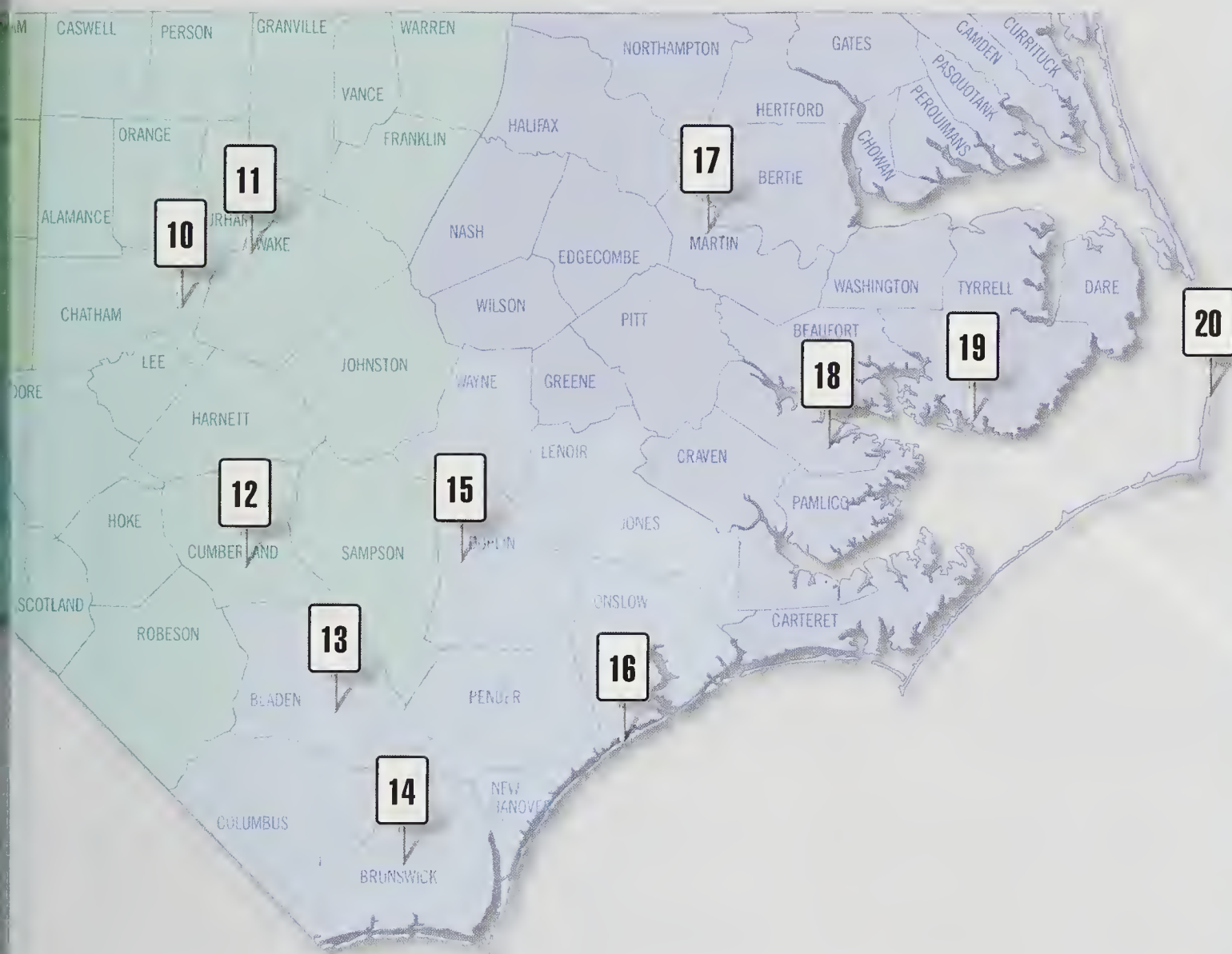
Our annual Touchstone Energy Travel Guide encourages you to experience this variety firsthand.

This year we've collected the primary sources of general information about each of five regions (pages 72–75) and accompany them with a set of Carolina Country Adventures. Among the four adventures for each region are some well-known standbys and some not so familiar, some historical, some recreational, some just plain fun.

As you make your way through this guide, or through the countryside responsible for these adventures, you can be assured that a Touchstone Energy cooperative is nearby.

Thanks to everyone who helped us compile this guide, and to our sponsors: the cooperatives and the advertisers on pages 42 to 46.





Travel Advertising . . . . .	42
■ Mountains. . . . .	47
■ Western Piedmont . . . . .	52
■ Eastern Piedmont . . . . .	57
■ Southern Coastland . . . . .	62
■ Northern Coastland. . . . .	67
Travel Resources . . . . .	72

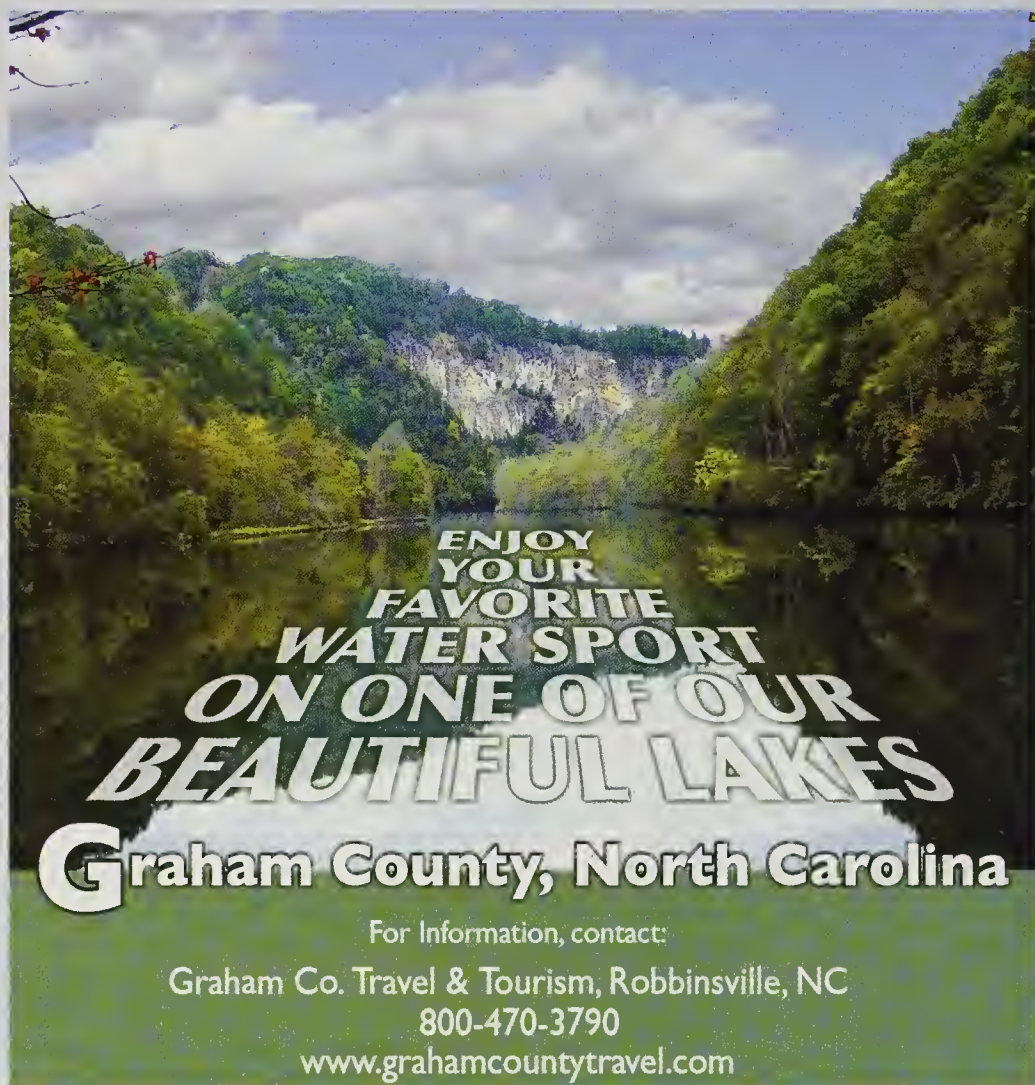
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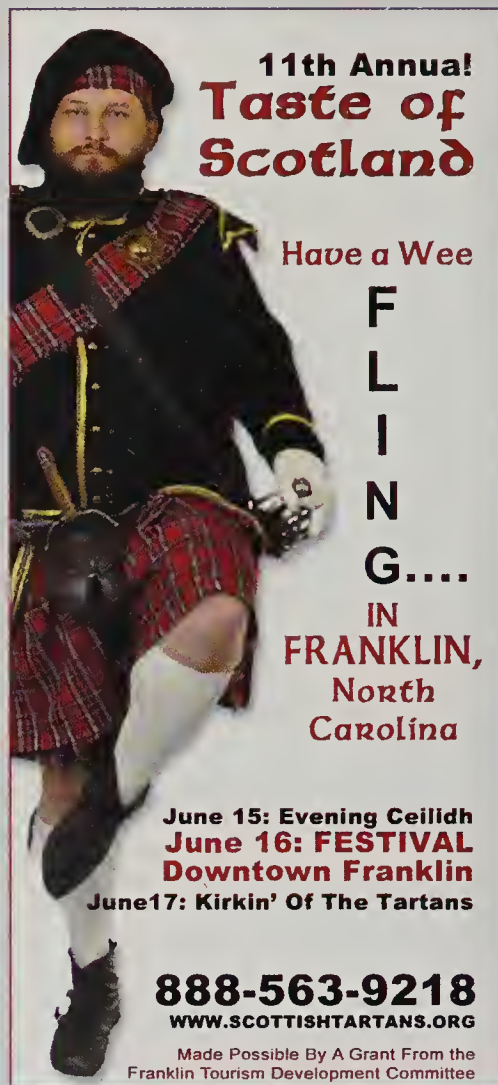


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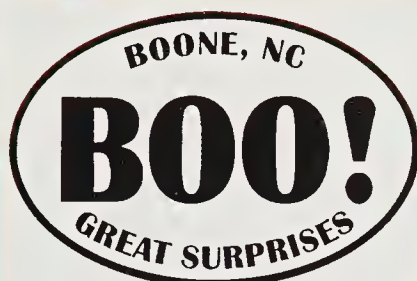
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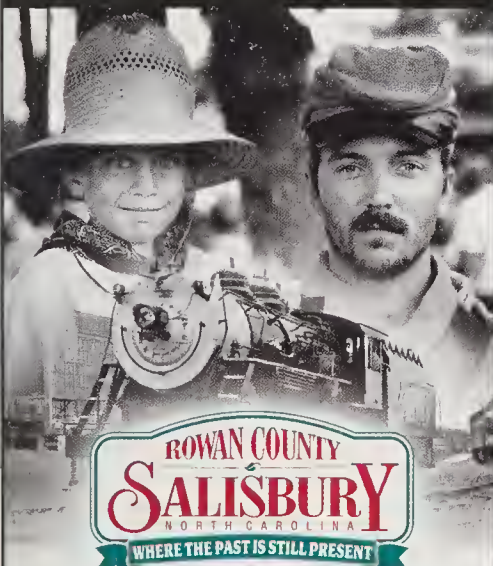
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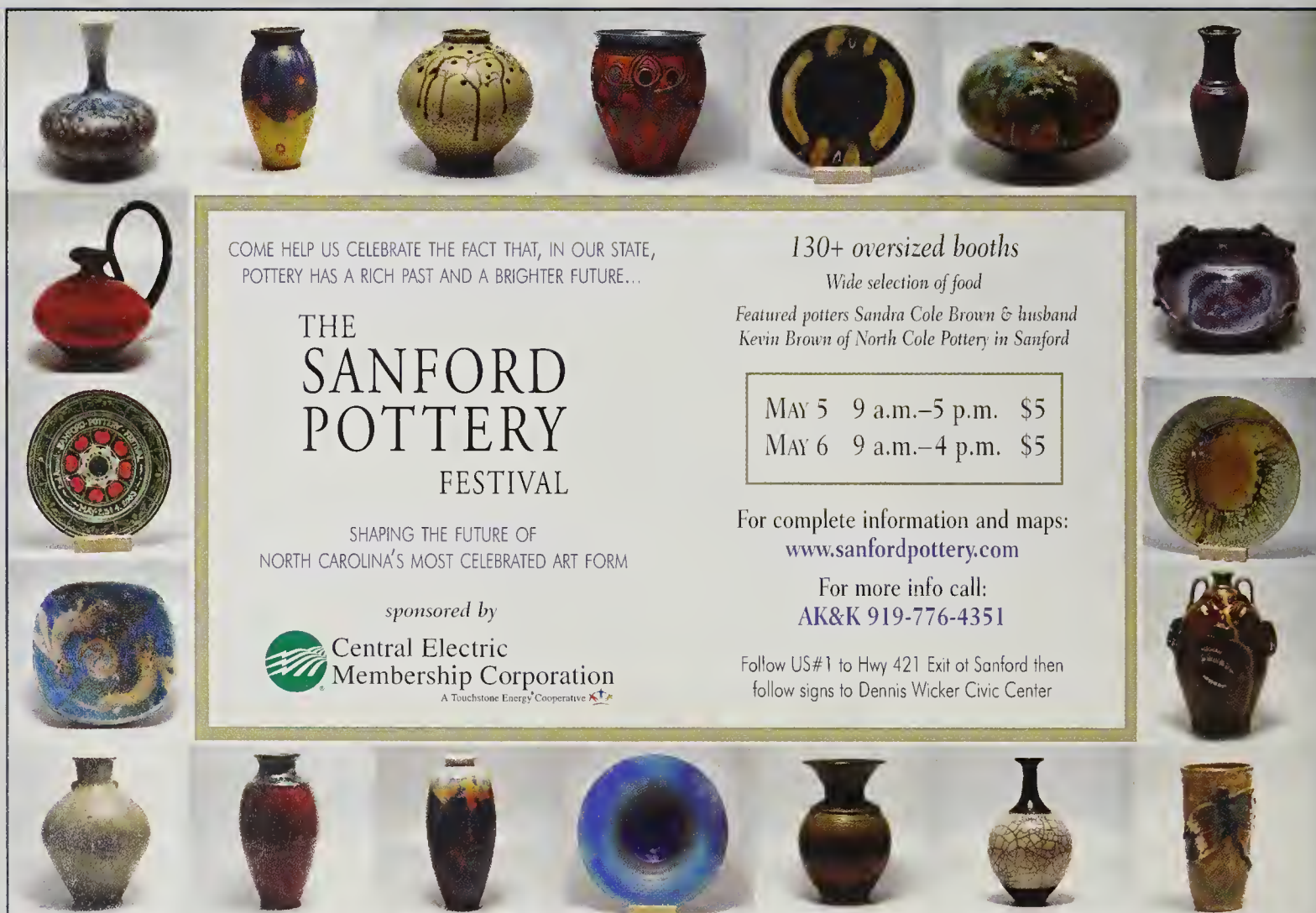


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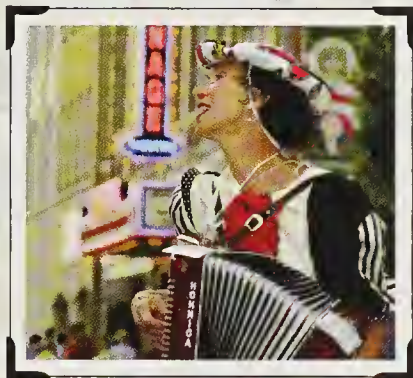
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Advertiser 13



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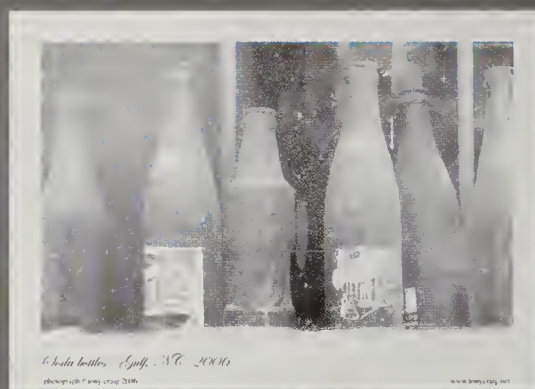
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Advertiser 23



# MOUNTAIN ADVENTURES



Towering peaks, lush valleys and postcard views are just around the bend in this culturally rich region. Old-time music, heritage arts and crafts, quaint inns, Appalachian cooking and pristine hiking trails are among its attractions. (For more information see our travel resources on page 72.)

1

## CHEROKEE HERITAGE TRAILS



The Cherokee Heritage Trails wind through the ancestral lands, weaving a tapestry of tales rooted in ancient places, community ties, centuries of history and legends.

2

## THE LAND OF WATERFALLS



Look out Niagara. Transylvania County boasts more than 250 gorgeous cascades for your viewing pleasure.

3

## ASHE COUNTY'S FARMS



There's more to Ashe County agriculture than Christmas trees. Organic, blueberry and apple farms for starters.

4

## LOVE VALLEY



This small, western-themed town serves as a Mecca for horse lovers, offering rodeos and other events, plus trail riding on more than 250 miles of Brushy Mountain foothills.



# 1 CHEROKEE HERITAGE TRAILS

## *Cherokee, Graham, Macon and Jackson counties*

By Tara Verna

**T**he Cherokee people, Ani-Kituhwa-gi, once ruled the mountains of North Carolina, Tennessee and Georgia, a 140,000-square mile area. Their culture—from storytelling and folk art to legends and sacred places—shaped these areas, molding them with traditions and history. After their forced removal to Oklahoma on the Trail of Tears in 1838, a small group remained in their homeland—the Eastern Band of the Cherokee Indians. Today the Cherokee people own about 100 square miles in North Carolina, known as the Qualla Boundary.

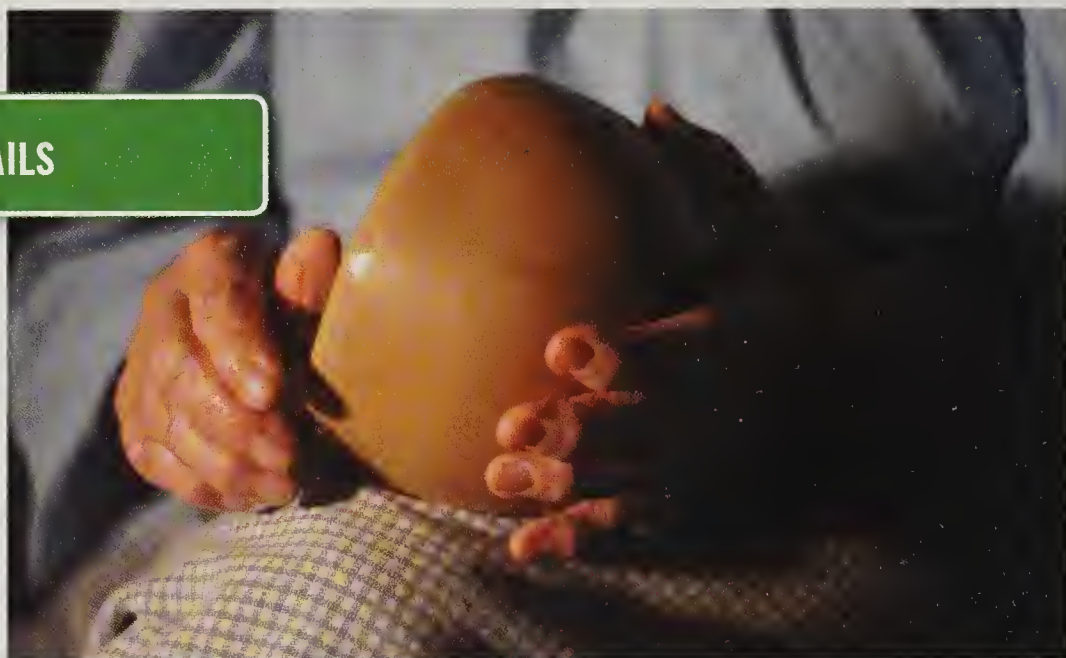
But the former territory is far from forgotten. The Cherokee Heritage Trails wind through the ancestral lands, weaving a tapestry of tales rooted in ancient places, community ties, centuries of history and legends. Sites include four North Carolina cities—Cherokee, Robbinsville, Franklin and Murphy—cities chosen by the Cherokee people as integral to their heritage. Here is a glimpse of what you might find when visiting them:

### CHEROKEE

Tribal members live and work in Cherokee, balancing daily life with Cherokee traditions. Here, the Museum of the Cherokee Indian serves as the interpretive center for the Cherokee Heritage Trails. For high quality crafts handmade by the Cherokee people, visit the Qualla Arts and Crafts Co-op (828-497-3101). Not far from Cherokee, you'll find Clingman's Dome, a mountain peak held sacred by the Cherokee and associated with legends of dancing bears and a magic lake (828-497-1940). And the annual Cherokee Voices Festival on Saturday, June 9, brings together Cherokee storytellers, dancers, musicians and craftspeople (828-497-3481).

### ROBBINSVILLE

In Robbinsville, the Junaluska Museum and Memorial serves as the center for the Cherokee Heritage Trails. Junaluska was a Cherokee leader held in high-esteem by both Cherokees and whites (828-479-4727, [www.junaluska.com](http://www.junaluska.com)). Near Robbinsville, it's still possible to walk or drive on the Tatham Gap Trail used on the Trail of Tears (828-479-6431). If you're up for a scenic drive, take the Cherohala Skyway, now completed after 30 years at a cost of more than \$100 million, from Robbinsville to Tellico Plains, Tenn. The 40-mile trip hugs mountain ridges the entire way, offering panoramic vistas at more than a mile high (828-479-6431).



*For high quality crafts handmade by the Cherokee people, visit the Qualla Arts and Crafts Co-op (828-497-3101) in Cherokee.*

### FRANKLIN

The Little Tennessee River and its tributaries once connected the Cherokee Middle Towns. Explore these areas today by walking the banks of the river, canoeing or by taking scenic drives. Stop by the interpretive center at the Scottish Tartans Museum on Main Street in Franklin. This museum focuses on the relationship between the Cherokee and early Scots traders and Scots-Irish settlers (828-524-7472). Also take in Nikwasi Mound in downtown Franklin. Unlike most mounds, it still stands at near original height and is quite possibly thousands of years old (828-524-2516).

### MURPHY

In Murphy, also known as the "Leech Place" or Tlanusi-yi of Cherokee lore, the Cherokee County Historical Museum is the interpretive center (828-837-6792). In nearby Brasstown, you'll find the Rivercane Walk along the Little Brasstown Creek at the John C. Campbell Folk School. Exhibit panels discuss the Aquohee community and lives of its Cherokee inhabitants on the eve of the 1838 removal (828-837-2775).

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

Start by visiting [www.cherokeeheritagetrails.org](http://www.cherokeeheritagetrails.org), a site that provides a framework for the "Cherokee Heritage Trails Guidebook" by Barbara R. Duncan and Brett H. Riggs. Move onto the book which examines seven geographical hubs within the original Cherokee homeland, including the four North Carolina cities mentioned above. It retails for \$16.95 from [www.uncpress.unc.edu](http://www.uncpress.unc.edu) or call (919) 966-3561. Groups may also consider hiring a member of the Eastern Band of the Cherokee Indians to serve as a tour guide, trained and certified by the Museum of the Cherokee Indian. Contact the museum at the number listed below if you are interested in this service.

**Museum of the Cherokee Indian**  
589 Tsali Blvd., P.O. Box 1599  
Cherokee, NC 28719

(828) 497-3481  
[bduncan@cherokeemuseum.org](mailto:bduncan@cherokeemuseum.org)  
[www.cherokeeheritagetrails.org](http://www.cherokeeheritagetrails.org)



## 2 THE LAND OF WATERFALLS

### Transylvania County

By Tara Verna

**P**lummeting, pouring, cascading, crashing—water falls in Transylvania County. Streams quickly lose altitude here, thanks to the rapidly changing elevation between the high points of the Blue Ridge Mountains and the flat piedmont regions of North and South Carolina. When coupled with the county's rainfall—the highest average rainfall east of the Pacific Northwest—you get an amazing abundance of waterfalls, more than 250 in fact, earning the area its nickname “The Land of Waterfalls.”

A vast number of waterfalls lie within the boundaries of Gorges State Park, DuPont State Forest and the Pisgah and Nantahala National Forests, which makes them available to the public. Keep in mind that a lot of falls exist on private property.

#### WHERE TO BEGIN: A FEW FAVORITE FAMILY FALLS

If you've never chased after waterfalls before, start with the Pisgah Ranger District of the Pisgah National Forest. The falls in this area are appropriate for families and children. Here are a few to get you started:

##### SLIDING ROCK FALLS

Located in Haywood EMC territory, Looking Glass Creek cascades over a 60-foot natural rock slide with a 6–7 foot deep pool at the base. This recreation area is maintained by the U.S. Forest Service. From Memorial Day to Labor Day, the slide is monitored by lifeguards and the fee is \$1. Call the Forest Service to learn more (828-877-3350).

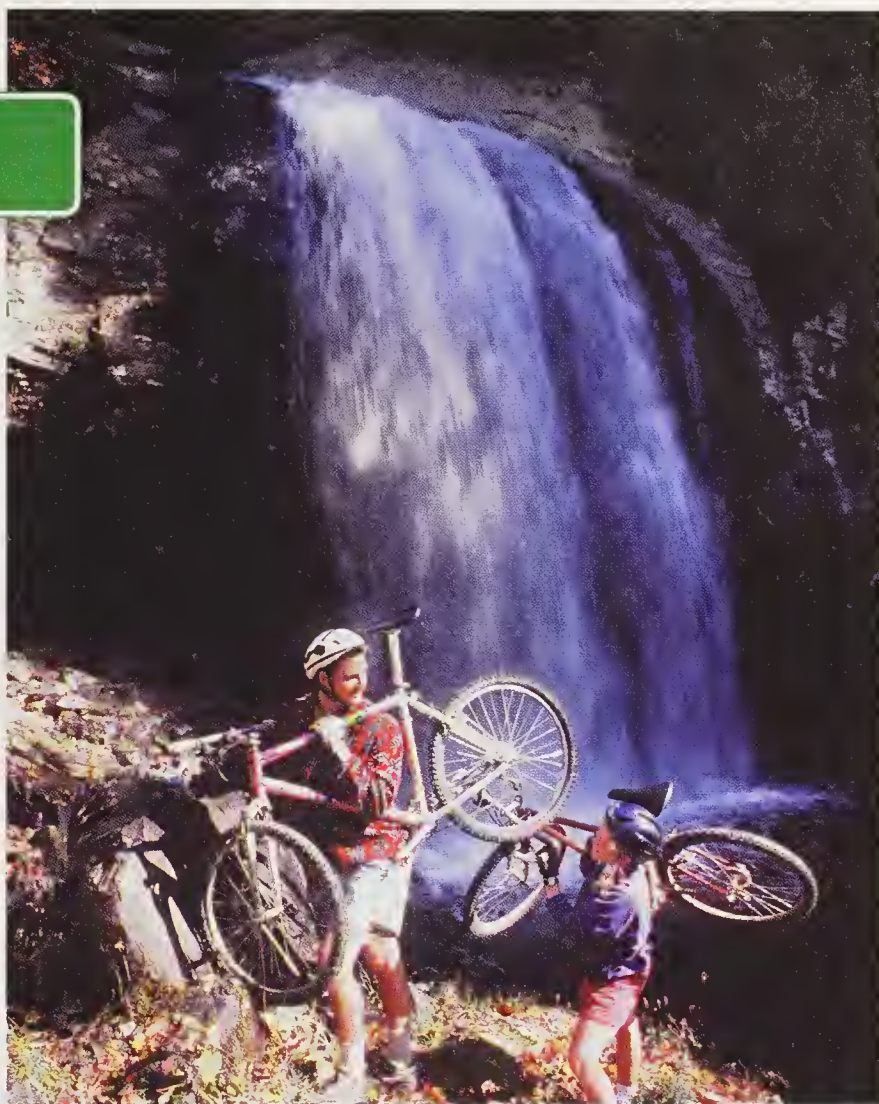
##### MOORE COVE FALLS

Hike an easy, well-marked 0.7 miles to where Moore Cove Creek free falls over a 55-foot recessed ledge. You may want to visit after a heavy rain when the waterfall will be more of a gush than a trickle.

##### LOOKING GLASS FALLS

One of the best-known falls in this area is Looking Glass Falls, not far from Brevard, just inside the entrance to the Pisgah National Forest. Its popularity may stem from how easy it is to view—just pull over, walk a few steps, and take in the glory of a sheet of water pouring over a wide rock and dropping 65 feet. To get a better look, wander down to Looking Glass Creek. As you make your way, keep an eye out for Looking Glass Rock, a massive slab of stone towering in the distance that is popular among climbers.

There are many other waterfalls throughout the county that are worth a look, including some of the most



Popular Looking Glass Falls, not far from Brevard, features a 65-foot drop.

popular—411-foot-tall Whitewater Falls, one of the tallest falls in the eastern United States, and Rainbow Falls which received a “10” rating in Kevin Adams’ book “North Carolina Waterfalls: a hiking and photography guide.”

#### WATERFALL SAFETY

Mark Moore, a captain with the Brevard Rescue Squad in Transylvania County, said that emergency workers there respond to about a half dozen waterfall accidents a year. Use common sense around the falls and keep the following safety tips in mind:

- Stay on developed trails. Don't stray from observation decks and platforms.
- Watch your footing. Dry rocks can be slippery when they are covered with algae.
- Do not lean over the top of a waterfall.

#### FOR MORE INFORMATION

Stop by the Ranger Office in Brevard (828-877-3265). You can purchase a trail map (or purchase at [www.ngmapstore.com](http://www.ngmapstore.com)), books, postcards and more. Consider buying the Kevin Adams book mentioned above. You can also find lots of information on the Web—visit [www.ncwaterfalls.com](http://www.ncwaterfalls.com) for starters.

**Transylvania Tourism**  
35 West Main St.  
Brevard NC 28712

(800) 648-4523  
[waterfalls@citcom.net](mailto:waterfalls@citcom.net)  
[www.visitwaterfalls.com](http://www.visitwaterfalls.com)



### 3 ASHE COUNTY'S FARMS TOUR

#### Ashe County

By Tara Verna

**T**raditionally an agriculture and manufacturing economy, the industrial make-up of Ashe County is rapidly changing. Today, industry is dominated by the electronics and automotive industries. But agriculture continues to play a vital role and in 2003 brought more than \$45 million in revenue to the county. Most of this income comes from the thriving Christmas tree industry that boasts more than 9.8 million trees, making Ashe County the largest producer in North Carolina and second in the nation. But you can find all kinds of farms in Ashe County—organic farms, apple farms, blueberry farms. So if you're in the mood to get back to basics, support the following local farms by paying them a visit (call first) or by purchasing their products.

#### ZYDECO MOON FARM

One of only two certified organic farms in Ashe County, 61-acre Zydeco Moon Farm provides fresh produce from May through October including sugar snap and snow peas, romaine lettuce, beets, spinach, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, leeks, tomatoes, bell peppers and squash. Purchase these vegetables at the Boone Farmer's Market. You can also visit the farm for a tour or rent one of its two log cabins—but please call first.

2220 Big Helton Rd., Grassy Creek, NC 28631, (336) 384-2546  
info@zydecomoon.com, <http://zydecomoonfarm.com>

#### ROSE MOUNTAIN FARM

This 29-acre farm raises chickens, turkeys, goats, pigs, horses and vegetables, plus produces apple cider vinegar and other canned goods. Their organic gardening practices will be USDA certified by June 2007. Find Rose Mountain Farm products at various local farmers markets in season. You can also order eggs, chickens, shiitake mushrooms and more online, and special orders can be taken for free-range whole hog sausage and uncured whole ham shoulders and loins. For the first time, the farm is offering CSA (community supported agriculture) shares—check the Web site for availability and details.

P.O. Box 225, Lansing, NC 28643, (336) 977-2535  
ann@rosemountainfarm.com, <http://rosemountainfarm.com>

#### BIG HORSE CREEK FARM

This small family-owned and operated orchard and nursery specializes in the collection and propagation of antique and heirloom apple varieties of the Appalachian Mountains as well as others from around the world. More than 300



varieties currently grow on the farm, including Hog Sweet, Carolina Red June, Priestly, Rainbow and Yellow Bellflower. If you'd like to plant your own apple tree, you can order a custom-grafted apple tree by March 1 for \$18 plus shipping, and then receive a one-year-old tree in the fall. The farm is open for tours May through October by appointment only. Guided tours are available for a small fee.

P.O. Box 70, Lansing, NC 28643, (336) 384-1134  
Oldapple@bighorsecreekfarm.com, <http://bighorsecreekfarm.com>

#### OLD ORCHARD CREEK FARM

This working blueberry farm nestled in a high altitude, secluded valley is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. From approximately July through mid-August, you can pick juicy, sweet blueberries. Bring a picnic and make a day of it. The farm also offers pick-your-own apples in season as well as rental cottages.

410 Swansie Shepherd Rd., Lansing, NC 28643, (336) 384-2774  
[www.olderchardcreek.com](http://www.olderchardcreek.com)

#### CHRISTMAS TREE FARMS

Tree farms abound in Ashe County. Here are a few listings to get you started:

(336) 982-9462  
[www.shatleyfarms.com](http://www.shatleyfarms.com)  
(336) 846-2976  
[www.cardinaltreefarm.com](http://www.cardinaltreefarm.com)  
(336) 246-7422  
[www.furchesevergreens.com](http://www.furchesevergreens.com)  
(336) 846-9627  
[www.hudlertrees.com](http://www.hudlertrees.com)  
(336) 982-9754  
[www.mistletoemeadows.com](http://www.mistletoemeadows.com)

**Ashe County  
Chamber of Commerce**  
303 E. Second St.  
P.O. Box 31  
West Jefferson, NC 28694  
(336) 846-9550  
(888) 343-2743  
info@ashechamber.com  
[www.ashechamber.com](http://www.ashechamber.com)



## 4 LOVE VALLEY

### Iredell County

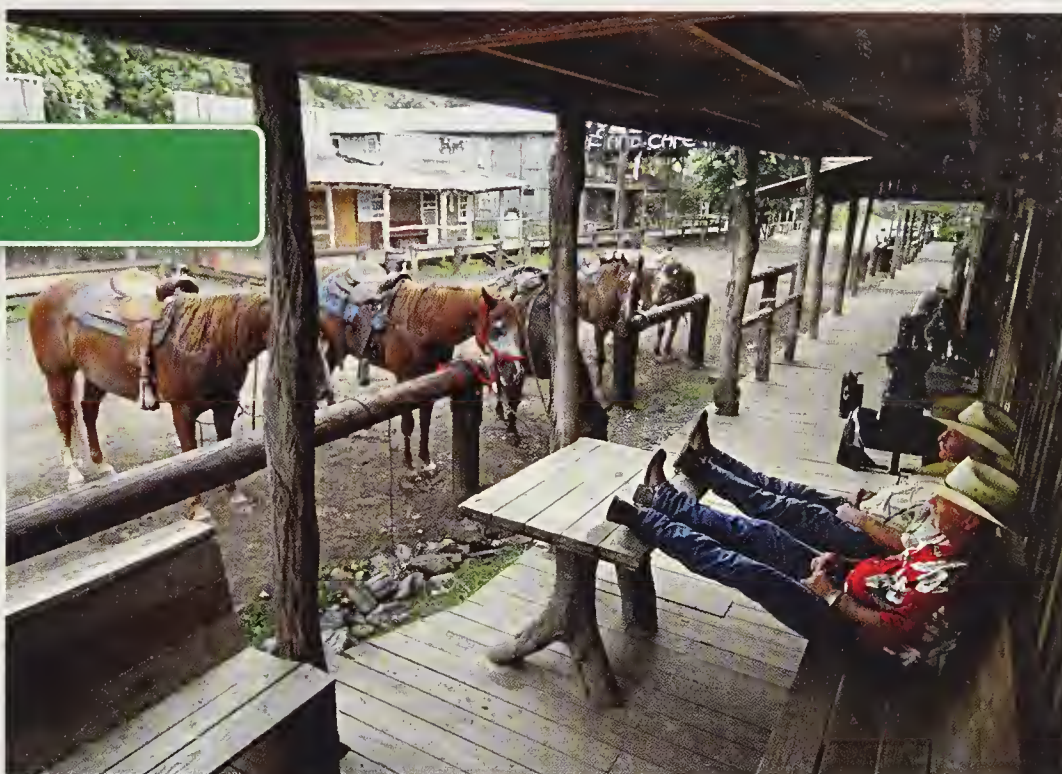
By Tara Verna

#### NORTH CAROLINA'S COWBOY CAPITAL

Love of horses, love of cowboys, love of the Old West—that's what Love Valley is made of. But when it comes to cars, there's no love lost. Park your vehicle at the entry gate since only hooves and boots are allowed to trod the dirt-packed downtown street of this town.

Located in the Brushy Mountains of Iredell County, 17 miles northwest of Statesville, Love Valley once existed only in the mind's eye of its eventual founder and mayor Andy Barker. Even as a fourth grader, Barker knew that he wanted to build a western town. Unlike most aspiring cowboys however, Barker followed through on his childhood dream. In 1954 the 29-year-old left a thriving construction business in Charlotte to purchase 369 rural acres and build his western-themed town. He began by building a church, Love Valley Presbyterian, which overlooks the entire town. Today you'll find a number of shops and restaurants including a general store, saloon, an old jail, blacksmith and a tack shop. Hitching posts and boardwalks line both sides of Love Valley's two blocks. And though it may seem like you're apt to run into John Wayne, you're more likely to run into 82-year-old Andy Barker, wheeling and dealing at his hardware store.

Though only 117 or so folks live permanently in Love Valley, ranked the smallest town in North Carolina in the 2000 census, the town comes alive on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays when visitors arrive. They come as spectators for various events at the Love Valley Arena, as riders on Brushy Mountain trails, and as horse lovers to talk shop with other kindred spirits.



*Rest your weary bones after a long trail ride and soak up the laid-back atmosphere of Love Valley's rustic downtown.*

#### FOR SPECTATORS

If you're considering a visit to Love Valley, check out the calendar for the Love Valley Arena at [www.lovevalley.com](http://www.lovevalley.com). Choose from more than a dozen rodeo events, including the second year of IPRA/SRA Professional Rodeo at the "Kick Up Your Heels for Hospice" on August 17–18, starting at 8 p.m. Last year's event attracted more than 1,200 visitors from as far away as Oklahoma and raised more than \$5,000 for the Gordon Hospice House in Statesville. The event features pro rodeo champions as well as local cowboys. In addition to rodeo-type events, consider attending Love Valley's Independence Day parade, bluegrass festival or chili cook-off.

#### FOR RIDERS

More than 250 miles of trails wind their way through the foothills of the Brushy Mountains around Love Valley. Trails range in difficulty from wide dirt or gravel roads to steep mountain climbs. If it's your first time, consider hiring a guide from one of the area stables or ask the staff to help you plan your trip. The dirt and clay trails are not well marked, a number of trails may be muddy, and some are narrow and rocky.

Love Valley accommodations range from campgrounds to bed and breakfasts. And if you're lacking a trusty steed, you can rent a horse from one of the stables in town.

Businesses are open Friday afternoon–Sunday afternoon only. Trails, horse rentals and campgrounds remain open seven days a week, except in deer season when trails are closed Monday–Friday.

To learn more, pick up the book "Love Valley: An American Utopia" by Conrad Ostwalt (\$16.95).

#### Love Valley Arena

120 McCarran Trail  
Love Valley, NC 28625

(704) 592-2299  
[lovevalleynance@aol.com](mailto:lovevalleynance@aol.com)  
[www.lovevalley.com](http://www.lovevalley.com)



*Junior SRA rodeo events at the Love Valley Arena feature children performing barrel racing, pole bending, bull riding and more.*



## WESTERN PIEDMONT ADVENTURES



Like the gold found and minted here in the 1800s, this region is bright and polished. They say the best barbecue comes from here, too, not to mention furniture, granite, ceramic arts and sonkers. Because of the shine, you can't miss it. (For more information see our travel resources on page 73.)

5

### MUSEUMS AT COOLEEMEE



Attractions at Cooleemee weave memories, photos, artifacts and more to create a rich tapestry of mill town culture.

6

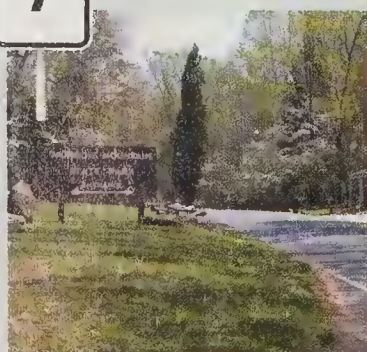
### HISTORIC GOLD HILL



Once the richest gold mining center east of the Mississippi, today Gold Hill is a little village with big charm, historical attractions and unique shopping.

7

### MORROW MOUNTAIN



This park's attractions include pretty mountain vistas, lake recreation, cabins and scenic trails for both people and horses.

8

### CHINQUA PENN PLANTATION



A 27-room English-style manor near Reidsville offers exotic furnishings from around the world, and the grounds are impressive, too.



## 5 MUSEUMS AT COOLEEMEE

### Davie County

by Karen Olson House

**R**ecollections of old-time textile mill towns are woven tightly into North Carolina's culture and heritage. At Cooleemee, two excellent museums and more than 330 original mill houses show in surprising ways how its residents worked and lived their daily lives.

### HISTORY AND CULTURE

Cooleemee was created in 1898 on the South Yadkin River, about 13 miles northeast of Salisbury. The company-owned town revolved around the giant mill, which was first called Cooleemee Cotton Mill, then Erwin Mills #3.

Cooleemee's first workers were country people seeking a more prosperous life in town. Their horse-drawn wagons came from farms in Davie, Rowan, Yadkin, Wilkes and Stanley counties. They valued hard work and a family labor system. But work wasn't everything in old Cooleemee.

Cooleemee was in many ways a model for its time. It had a town square, schools, churches, a general store, beauty shops, weekly newspaper and a movie theatre where workers hooted at "talkies."

Cooleemee workers enjoyed the conveniences of the village, where neighbors could readily help each other. Social activities included listening to brass band concerts and rooting for the mill's baseball teams on Saturday afternoons. Cooleemee produced some noteworthy athletes and sent six

ballplayers to the major leagues.

Early mill hours mimicked farm hours: 12-hour shifts and an hour dinner break at noon. By the late 1930s, modern management techniques were tightening production routines. Men fin-



The "Bullhole" is a favorite spot at historic RiverPark.

gering stopwatches timed workers' movements and doubled their loads. In 1962, the company demolished the town square. After Burlington Industries purchased Erwin Mills in 1963, full cloth production in Cooleemee ended in 1969.

Today, Cooleemee remains a vital community with a pas-

sion for its past. Stokes County Yarn Company occupies the old mill.

### MAKING IT COME ALIVE

**Mill Village Museum:** Cooleemee residents and volunteers have done an impressive job of preserving its culture. The Mill Village Museum displays many rare artifacts, worker photographs, old newspapers and themed exhibits. A "Before Electricity" exhibit shows what home life was like before electric power came to the mill houses in 1927.

**The Textile Heritage Center:** Its mission is documenting Carolina cotton mill life. Its archives contain more than 105 hours of video interviews, more than 600 images and more than 400 documents. Both the Center and the Mill Village Museum are housed in historic Zachary-Holt House on Church Street. Hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday; 2 to 4 p.m. on Sunday.

**Mill Family Life Museum:** A block away, you can tour a house carefully restored to depict a mill hand's home life in the early 1930s. Visitors learn that a mill house's front room would have been a parlor or bedroom for grandma, and that workers' meals came from their own vegetable gardens. Furnishings include a wood cook stove, iron beds, linoleum rugs, Edison light bulbs, old radio, and a flip seat commode that flushed when users stood up.

**RiverPark at Cooleemee Falls:** Cascading falls at the "Bullhole" made this site a favorite spot for picnick-

ing mill workers. The 40-acre nature park has restrooms, canoe portage and trails. Open year-round 8 a.m. to dusk.

### Textile Heritage Center at Cooleemee

Old #14 Church St.  
Cooleemee, NC, 27014

(336) 284-6040  
[www.textileheritage.org](http://www.textileheritage.org)



Old photos at the Mill Village Museum show Cooleemee's textile culture.

Photos courtesy of Textile Heritage Center



## 6 HISTORIC GOLD HILL

### Rowan County

by Karen Olson House

Located 14 miles south of Salisbury, Gold Hill was once a rowdy boom town with pubs, general stores and brothels. Today, it's a picturesque, reconstructed village where visitors can learn the region's fascinating mining history and peruse charming shops.

### GOLD FEVER DAYS

Even though gold was identified in the district years earlier, serious mining at Gold Hill didn't really begin until 1842, when surprised farmers struck a rich vein of ore.

Over the next year, prospectors found more vein deposits on neighboring farms. Miners, including many veterans of the 1820 and 1830 gold booms near Charlotte, flocked to Gold Hill. By 1849, the town boasted a hotel, six blacksmiths, five physicians and one attorney. Described as the richest gold mining center east of the Mississippi, at its peak more than 800 people lived in Gold Hill with production cresting between 1853 and 1858.

A decline in productivity in 1859 and 1860 and Civil War recruitment of miners helped hasten the demise of profitable mining here. It never became a ghost town, but eroded in population and stature. After the Civil War, Gold Hill's glittering legend sparked numerous attempts, mostly unrewarded, to revive mining in the area.

### THINGS TO SEE AND DO

Gold Hill is accessed a few turns off of Hwy. 52. Centrally located parking is off St. Stephen's Church Road, near shops and across from Gold Hill Mines Historic Park. The 70-acre park was the site of the famed Bernhardt and Randolph mines. You can still view the barred entrance to a shaft there, along with the Bernhardt family's log barn, a powder house and an ore mill. The town's jail and an office that depicts the trade are open during events and arranged tours.

Vintage photographs and a cozy maze of dining areas add to the appeal of Miss Ruby's Restaurant. Lunch items include Cobb salad and a lemon peppered chicken

#### The Village at Gold Hill

St. Stephen's Church Road  
Gold Hill, NC

(704) 267-9439

[www.historicgoldhill.com](http://www.historicgoldhill.com)



*The old Burt Shoe company once housed Gold Hill's post office.*

salad, along with "gold plate" specials such as meatloaf. Dinner fare includes prawns and cheddar cheese grits. Miss Ruby's also serves a Sunday brunch with champagne.

Village hours are 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday to Sunday, but some stores keep different hours. The dozen or so shops are within walking distance of each other. They include:

**E. H. Montgomery General Store & Pickin' Parlor:** tourist information, mining memorabilia, Red Bird candy, Russian tea, ice cream and art by artist/historian Vivian Hopkins. The store hosts live, old-time music Friday and Saturday nights and is also home to Fifth String and Co., which sells banjos, mandolins, strings and instructional videos.

**Gold Hill Mint Bake Shoppe:** "Miss Carol" sells freshly baked pies, cakes and cookies in a restored miner's shack.

**Mauney's 1840 Store & Museum:** One of the two original commercial buildings, "Mauney's" actually houses Katie's Amish Heirlooms, which sells Amish furniture, relishes and jellies. The Wine Cellar downstairs has a mini-museum.

**Cathy Cain's studio:** Cathy sells antiques and garden décor such as bird-houses, wind chimes and wire designs.



*A basket shop in the village.*



## 7 MORROW MOUNTAIN STATE PARK

Stanly County

by Karen Olson House

In the ancient Uwharrie Mountains, located near Albemarle, this park offers panoramic views, 32 miles of hiking trails, camping, cabins, a pool, lake recreation and a chance to see how an old-time doc lived.

The steep, rugged hills here are unusual for the area and contrast with rolling piedmont countryside. The park's four peaks—Morrow, Sugarloaf, Hattaway and Fall—have wooded terrain reminiscent of Blue Ridge trails. Morrow Mountain is the highest peak at 936 feet. Visitors can drive to an overlook there for a majestic view of the Uwharries, Lake Tillery and the Pee Dee River.

You can also see salamanders and hear the calls of spring peepers and chorus frogs. In the upland forests observant hikers may glimpse a scarlet kingsnake, a colorful snake guaranteed to raise a pulse. At least 16 miles of hiking trails double as bridlepaths, so you might spot horses, too.

Folks can fish from Lake Tillery's banks or from a pier for game fish such as largemouth bass, striped bass, perch, bluegill and catfish. Rowboats and canoes are rented at the park's boathouse.

The discovery of Indian artifacts in the area attests to the presence of Native Americans before European settlement along the Pee Dee River. An exhibit hall near the park office features displays on Native Americans, early explorers, plants, animals, rock and minerals.

Development of the park began in the 1930s, and many of the attractive facilities here were the welcome work of Civilian Conservation Corps and Work Projects Administration crews. The park's appreciably large swimming pool is one of only a few pools that exist or are planned for in North Carolina's state parks today. Its enclosed area includes stone amphitheater-style bleachers and a 10-table shelter with wheelchair access to restrooms.



Park visitors can fish from Lake Tillery's banks or from a pier for bass, bluegill and perch.

### A DOCTOR'S HISTORIC HOMESTEAD

Dr. Francis Kron's reconstructed homestead is a short drive from the park office. Dr. Kron immigrated to America in 1823 and is recognized as the first medical doctor to settle in the southern piedmont.

A hardworking horticulturist and educator who doctored into his 80s, Dr. Kron traveled long distances to care for the sick. Dr. Kron's home, greenhouse, doctor's office and infirmary appear much as they did in 1870. A plaque there relates the respected doctor's fascinating, and occasionally toxic, methods, which included "bleeding" and administering mercury to his patients.

### CABINS AND CAMPING

The six vacation cabins near the pool are another welcome sight. Although some state parks in North Carolina have group cabins available, the only other state park to offer family cabins is Hanging Rock State Park. Morrow Mountain's cabins accommodate up to six people, and have living rooms, fireplaces, kitchens and two bedrooms.

For tent or RV camping, visitors can choose from 106 campground sites. There are no RV hookups, but a dump station is provided.

The group tent camping area is near the Pee Dee River. Its six sites, each with picnic tables and a fire circle and grill, are near a shower house. Backpackers can stay at the park's primitive campground, about two miles in from the park office.



Dr. Kron's reconstructed homestead includes his home, greenhouse, doctor's office and infirmary.

#### Morrow Mountain State Park

49104 Morrow Mountain Road,  
Albemarle, NC, 28001

(704) 982-4402

<http://ils.unc.edu/parkproject/visit/momo/home.html>



## 8 CHINQUA PENN PLANTATION

### Rockingham County

by Karen Olson House

Once featured on A&E's "American Castles," this recently reopened plantation is a stimulating surprise from the time you arrive.

Located west of Reidsville, this countryside treasure offers tours through an English manor with exotic furnishings such as French tapestry, Italian mosaics and King Tut chairs. The grounds boast artful landscaping with humorous statuary, elegant water gardens, a massive stone clock tower and a full-size Chinese pagoda overlooking the swimming pool.

Built in 1923 by dairy farmer Thomas Jefferson Penn and his new wife Beatrice, Chinqua Penn was never an antebellum plantation. The attraction's unusual name is a word pun: "Chinqua" refers to the chinquapin or chestnut tree, and Jeff and Betsy, as they preferred to be called, playfully subbed in "Penn."

Jeff's father, Frank Reid Penn, co-founded Penn Tobacco Company in Reidsville. Jeff went into the family business, regularly traveling to California and China. After his dad sold Penn Tobacco, Jeff bought land in Rockingham County and turned his energies to farming. By 1922, he had lost his first wife and a child to childbirth but owned more than 1,000 acres and had a thriving Holstein herd.

In 1923 he married Betsy, the daughter of a wealthy New Yorker. Betsy hosted kickoff dinners and other charity events at Chinqua Penn and helped establish the Penn 4-H Center.

The couple definitely knew how to give a bash. Jeff cooked Green Brunswick stew in an iron pot so large it had to be rolled on a trolley track. Guests played cards at Flintstone-like stone tables and chairs near the outdoor barbecue or took a dip in the pool.

The public restroom at Chinqua Penn has a nice, rather unexpected, gallery of photographs and cattle farming journals that outline the plantation's impressive agricultural history.

#### GOING THROUGH THE MANOR

The house's eclectic furnishings reveal the Penns' passionate love of travel and decorative art. The entry features ornate, carved doors from Venice. A French powder room displays replicas of paintings at Marie Antoinette's palace boudoir. The dining room walls are Swedish pine and another room



Master suite sitting room in the Penns private quarters is included on tour.

sports Spanish ironwork and red velvet walls.

The pair's sense of adventure really shows in their "mud room," where guests enjoyed cocktails and relaxed after horseback riding. One wall features a collection of 16th and 17th century Spanish spurs and bits and a Greek painting of a bull reigns over the fireplace.

The plantation will soon open a wing that features servants quarters and an Oriental tea room. A wine tasting room is set to open April 21.

#### SIGHTS FROM THE WALKING TRAIL

A mile and a half trail winds past pretty pastures, brooks and lakes. Points of interest include the dog cemetery, where the Penns held funerals for Betsy's pet spaniels and setters. Farm land adjoining the property is still operated as an experimental agricultural station. Trial crop plantings and prize Black Angus, descendants of Jeff's herd, can be seen from the trail.

#### TOURS OFFERED

The house and grounds are open on weekends. Admission to both for adults is \$12; students with college I.D., \$10; seniors, \$10; and youth (ages 6–15), \$8. Children under 5 are admitted free. Tours of the grounds are Wednesdays to Sundays and cost \$5 per person.



English manor's front entrance.

**Chinqua Penn Plantation**  
2138 Wentworth Street  
Reidsville, NC, 27320  
(336) 349-4576  
[www.chinquapenn.com](http://www.chinquapenn.com)



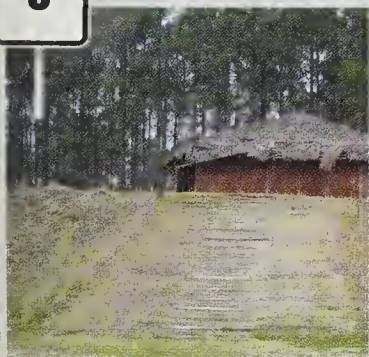
# EASTERN PIEDMONT ADVENTURES



Big cities and small towns with crossroads in-between, award-winning museums, top-flight golf, renowned gardens, quiet historic and nature parks tucked away from the city bustle and great bicycling routes—the Eastern Piedmont boasts a wide range of educational and recreational attractions. (For more information see our travel resources on pages 73–74.)

9

## TOWN CREEK INDIAN MOUND



Before the Europeans came to this land, Native Americans built thriving communities such as this one discovered in a Montgomery County cotton field and recreated by archaeologists.

10

## NEW HOPE VALLEY RAILWAY



A railroad more than a century old and its locomotives carries passengers on an hour-long excursion across the Chatham County and Wake County border.

11

## WILLIAM B. UMSTEAD PARK



Visitors escape the hustle and bustle of city life in the forests, streams and lakes found on this 5,577-acre park, located in the heart of the Triangle and a few miles from a busy international airport.

12

## JAMBBAS RANCH



You won't find lions and tigers here, but Ben the Bear, Charlie the Llama and a host of other domestic and exotic animals roam in a natural habitat on this ranch outside of Fayetteville.



## 9 TOWN CREEK INDIAN MOUND

### Montgomery County

by Renee C. Gannon

The drive on Highway 73 toward Mt. Gilead gives you a good idea why the Pee Dee Indians settled in this area between 1200 and 1400 AD. The Pee Dee River valley features rolling hills where Piedmont clay mixed with Sandhills loam create land perfect to grow crops such as corn, beans, gourds, squash and tobacco. The area's woodlands hold small game and deer, nuts and berries for food, as well as material to build homes and make tools. The Little River offers swift transportation routes, fish and clay for pottery.

How do we know the Indians settled here? The answers started with an earthen mound in the middle of a cotton field. The mound and the surrounding area had yielded arrowheads and pottery shards to amateur relic hunters for years. In 1937, the state of North Carolina purchased the land and excavations began, revealing a thriving village where people lived, worked and died. The property officially became the Town Creek Indian Mound State Historic Site in 1955. It remains the only state historic site dedicated to the Native American heritage.

Today, visitors can walk in and around this re-created Indian village and venture onto nature trails. The village is surrounded by a recreated stockade that represents the smallest of the five stockades found at Indian Creek.

#### A WAY OF LIFE DISCOVERED

The Town Creek visitor's center is the first stop. A small exhibit area provides the history of the early Indian tribes that populated the southeastern United States. The exhibits include pottery urns for burial, other types of pottery, tools, jewelry and games found on site. Visitors should watch the short movie, "The Mystery of Town Creek," before venturing outside.

On the short walk to the stockade's north tower, you see the earthen mound over the fence. Once through the gate, the burial hut should be the first stop. Inside, an audio-visual presentation shows a visitor a Native funeral ceremony for a 3-year-old girl. Each clan in the village had its own mortuary structure.



Visitors enter the Town Creek Indian village through the north tower gate.

Back out in the sun, the large plaza or open area features a tall pole used for various ceremonies and games. During the important "busk" ceremony, houses were cleaned and repairs made throughout the village, debts resolved, and bodies cleansed from bathing and fasting in preparation for the new year. Villagers carried embers from the main fire back to their homes to relight hearths and be "people of one fire."

The town house and mound rises above the plaza. When first excavated, archaeologists discovered that the mound started as a small earth lodge, which collapsed and was covered, creating a low mound. The villagers then built a town house on top, then destroyed it and added another layer of earth to the mound to build a second, larger town house, represented by the reconstructed building at the site. This town house served as the village's ceremonial and political center. The building held the sacred fire, or an eternal flame. Across from the mound sits the priest hut. The priest served as the keeper of the sacred fire.

The village is just a small part of what archeologists believe is a bigger early Native American community in the surrounding areas. Archeologists hope to begin excavating other found sites in the near future.

Town Creek Indian Mound is open year-round, Tuesday to Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Sundays 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. The site is closed on Mondays and holidays.

**Town Creek Indian Mound**  
509 Town Creek Mound Rd.  
Mt. Gilead, NC 27306

(919) 439-6802  
towncreek@ncmail.net  
www.towncreek.nchistoricsites.org



# 10 NEW HOPE VALLEY RAILWAY

## Chatham County

by Renee C. Gannon

**A**ll aboard! The New Hope Valley Railway is a fun excursion for young and old, a way for all of us to feel like a child again. The railway is run by an all-volunteer crew of train buffs and retired railroad workers.

For an hour, riders can sit back and enjoy the view along the rails, passing through forests and seeing only a few buildings on the entire ride—uncommon in this growing metropolitan area known as the Triangle.

### THE ROMANCE OF THE RAILS

The NHV railway owns seven operating locomotives, though not all seven run on the same day. The train trip runs 4.5 miles from the Bonsal terminal to New Hill in Wake County, then returns to Bonsal to disembark its passengers after the 9-mile ride. The train cars feature open windows to let the cool breeze circulate around its passengers and a roof to keep any dropping limbs, leaves, nuts or rain from interrupting the ride.

The railway has monthly ride days the first Sunday of each month from May to November, and both Saturday and Sunday the first weekend in December. The railway runs special events such as Halloween rides during the evening on the last Saturday in October and the Santa train in December.

A railroad museum is also housed at the Bonsal station. Exhibits include train cars and locomotives, a collection of historic memorabilia and a 600-foot garden size model railway. During the winter months, the trains may not be running, but the outdoor museum exhibits, including the railroad equipment, are open to the public every weekend, and the work crews are performing track and locomotive maintenance all through the year.

According to NHV Railway director Bob Crowley, the railroad was originally built as the Durham & South

Carolina Railroad (D&SC) in the early 1900s to tap the timber resources in the New Hope Creek valley for lumber needed to make railroad ties. It then became a major hauler of tobacco products in and out of Durham when Norfolk Southern Railroad purchased the line. In the late 1970s, to make way for the Jordan Dam, flooding the valley to form Jordan Lake, most of the line was relocated.

The current New Hope Valley Railway began in January 1982 when the eastern N.C. chapter of the National Railway Historical Society purchased the tracks and right-of-way in Bonsal and New Hill from Southern Railway. The purchase included the Bonsal rail yard, the current railway line, and a small part of the original 1906 track lying just north of Bonsal. This old track line can be seen on the excursion trip. The first public rides began in April 1984, and the railway has been helping others ride the rails ever since.

Because it is an all-volunteer operation, the railway does not offer scheduled rides every weekend, although it is working toward that goal. If you are interested, visit the NHV Railway Web site for the current schedule. On scheduled ride days, trains run at 11 a.m., 12:15 p.m., 1:30 p.m., 2:45 p.m. and 4 p.m.

Crowley suggests you arrive at least 30 minutes before the train you plan to ride and tickets can be bought only at the railway station.

The cost of an hour riding the rails is \$9 for adults and \$6 for kids age 2–12.

**New Hope Valley Railway**  
N.C. Railroad Museum  
P.O. Box 40  
New Hill, NC 27562

info@nhvry.org  
www.nhvry.org



*The New Hope Valley Railway offers hour-long roundtrip rides from Bonsal in Chatham County to New Hill in Wake County and back, using tracks originally laid 100 years ago.*



*New Hope Valley Railway's all-volunteer crew teaches the young and old about riding the rails.*



# 11 WILLIAM B. UMSTEAD STATE PARK

## Wake County

by Renee C. Gannon

**O**ut-of-town visitors and city dwellers alike find peace and solitude within the boundaries of this 5,577-acre park, located just off Highway 70 between Raleigh and Durham, and a few miles away from the Raleigh-Durham International Airport.

From the air, this large splash of green stands out amongst the roadways, subdivisions, strip malls and city lights. The park is an oasis for those wishing to escape a busy life for a few hours or for those visitors looking for a nature break in a day filled with touring museums, historic sites and shopping centers.

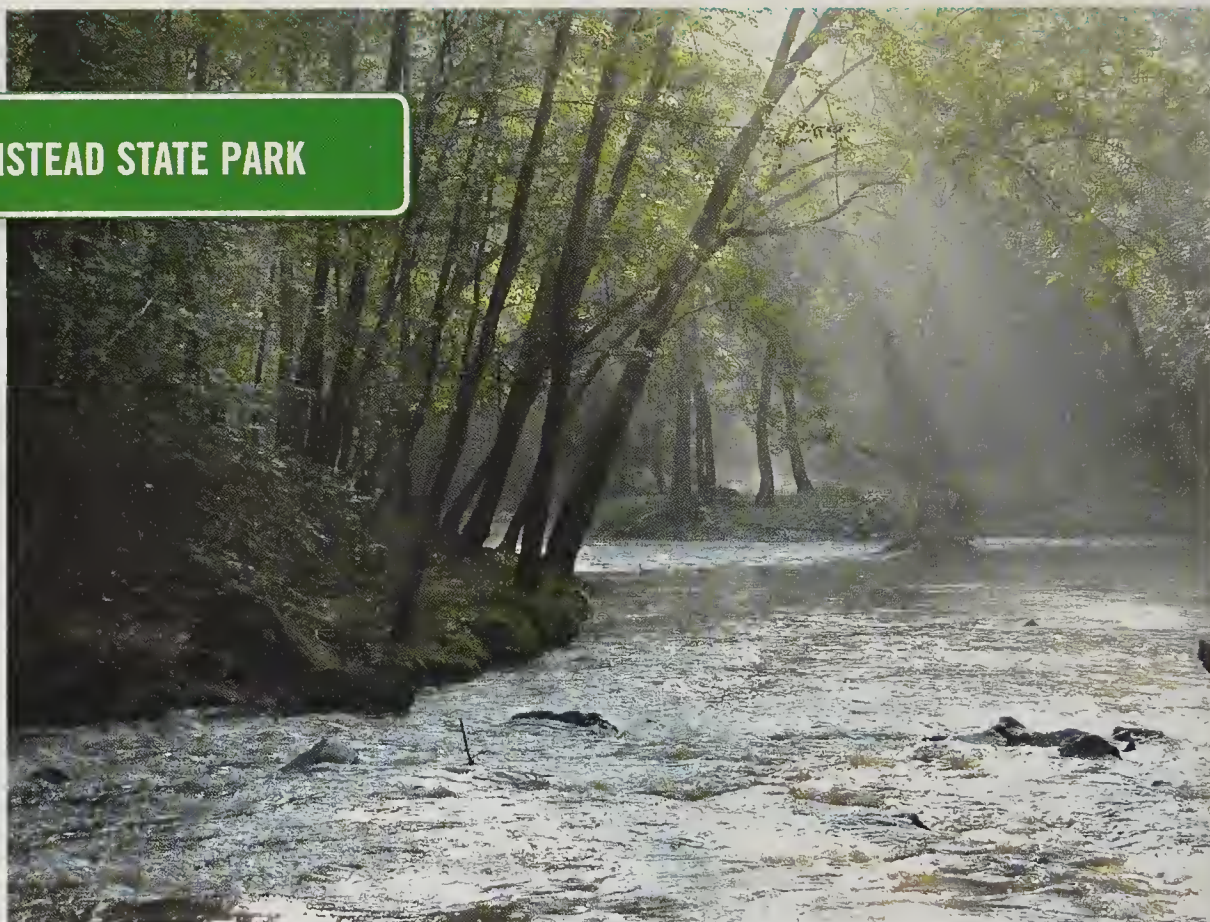
Farmland at one time occupied Umstead Park, but poor farming practices led to erosion and underproduction. In 1934, under the Resettlement Administration Act, federal and state agencies bought 5,000 acres of this land to develop a recreation area. In 1966, the park, then known as Crabtree Creek Recreation Area, merged with a neighboring Reedy Creek park. The new recreation area then became

Umstead Park, named after former Gov. William Bradley Umstead, who had been known for his conservation efforts.

A visitor's center at the park's main entrance features an exhibit on the land's history. The exhibit includes a look at daily farm life and a replica of a grist mill found in the park, and an exhibit on the park's weather, soil and wildlife habitats. The center also features an interactive computer exhibit that shows visitors the effects of development and preservation.



*Umstead Park's miles of trails through its wooded forest provides a cool, shaded path for runners, walkers, hikers, bikers and horseback riders.*



*The serenity of its lakes and streams makes the William B. Umstead Park a favorite place for visitors to get away from the daily grind.*

## LEAVING THE CITY BEHIND

The park offers something for all recreational tastes. Visitors can ride the 13 miles of marked trails built for a mountain bike or on horseback, stroll along the many nature trails or hike on the 20 miles of hiking trails that provide access to most of the park. Overnight camping fully envelopes visitors into quiet nature, although an occasional airplane flying overhead reminds you of civilization. The park features a tent/trailer compound, primitive camping sites and group camping sites.

Want to fish? Try your luck at catching bass, bluegill and crappie at one of the three manmade lakes and the many connecting streams: the 55-acre Big Lake and the 25-acre lakes Sycamore and Reedy Creek. Canoes and rowboats are also available for rental at the boathouse on the Big Lake.

Umstead Park offers plenty of open and sheltered picnic areas (for a few people up to a large group), with tables, grills and scenery provided. In the Crabtree Creek section, 40 picnic tables can be found under the trees; and in Reedy Creek, 25 tables. The park also provides drinking water and restrooms located throughout the park. Parking lots are also scattered throughout for convenience.

The park also offers regularly scheduled educational and interpretive programs.

The park is open year-round. Park offices are open 8 a. m. to 5 p.m. daily, with the park closed on Christmas Day.

### William B. Umstead State Park

8801 Glenwood Ave.

Raleigh, NC 27612

(919) 571-4170

[William.umstead@ncmail.net](mailto:William.umstead@ncmail.net)

<http://ils.unc.edu/parkproject/visit/wium/home.html>



# 12 JAMBBAS RANCH

Cumberland County

by Renee C. Gannon

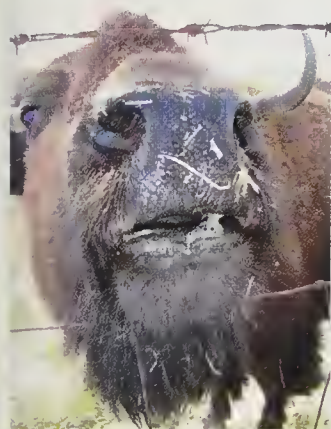
Looking for a spot where your kids could burn off energy? How about a place that features animals, another kid favorite? Welcome to Jambbas Ranch, located just outside of Fayetteville in the Cedar Creek community.

If you are expecting the flash and detail of the N.C. Zoo in Asheboro, check your expectations on the I-95 exit ramp before making those last few turns to this working ranch. But you will get up close and personal with a wide variety of domestic and exotic animals set in a natural habitat.

James Bass opened his ranch to the public in 1995. When the weather is sunny and warm, he says about 200 people on average visit the ranch daily. But even in the winter, visitors trickle in at about 10-15 a day. The animals are out and about when it's warm though, giving visitors quite a show. When it's cold, they tend to stay tucked in.

## TALK TO THE ANIMALS

The visit starts at the welcome center, a rustic-looking building that reminds you of a long-lost general store. Splurge an extra \$1 for a bucket of bread to feed the animals. Most



Buffalo, elk and llamas stroll up to the fence for a better view.

come up to the fence for a bite to eat and a personal visit. To stay safe, the ranch management recommends that you feed the sheep, goats and llamas with a flat hand, and throw the bread through or over the fence with all other animals. And do not feed the raccoon or alligator.

At the start of the tour, Charlie the llama will greet you first outside the ostrich and white tail deer area. He roams the ranch in a carefree style and doesn't bother visitors.

The walking tour of the entire ranch averages 1.5 hours, but with so many trails and nature areas to explore, a 3-hour visit is not uncommon. The trails are hard-packed dirt roads that follow a circle from the welcome center to the Cape Fear River that borders the ranch,



Throughout the Jambbas Ranch, visitors can talk to the animals, such as this camel.

and back to the welcome center, with Alligator Lane bisecting the middle.

Fenced-in areas hold exotic animals such as buffalo, llamas, an alligator, elk, deer, a camel, and an ostrich, as well as the typical ranch animals such as cows, mules, chickens, rabbits, sheep, goats, ducks and turkeys. The newest addition is Ben the bear, who is located just behind the welcome center.

## BACK TO NATURE

The ranch also features plenty of rest stops along the trail. Benches are scattered throughout and two picnic areas with covered shelters are located near the river: Fort Leisure and Fort Rest. Many visitors pack a lunch for a picnic on the ranch, taking time to rest and enjoy the scenic views.

A nature walk could include traversing a 203-foot swinging bridge over a ravine or crossing a creek via a wooden covered bridge. With plenty of wooded areas, the ranch offers more than just a peek at animal life.

Jambbas Ranch is open year-round, Monday-Saturday from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., and 1 to 5 p.m. on Sundays. Admission is \$6 for an adult and \$4 for youth. Group rates are available.



### Jambbas Ranch

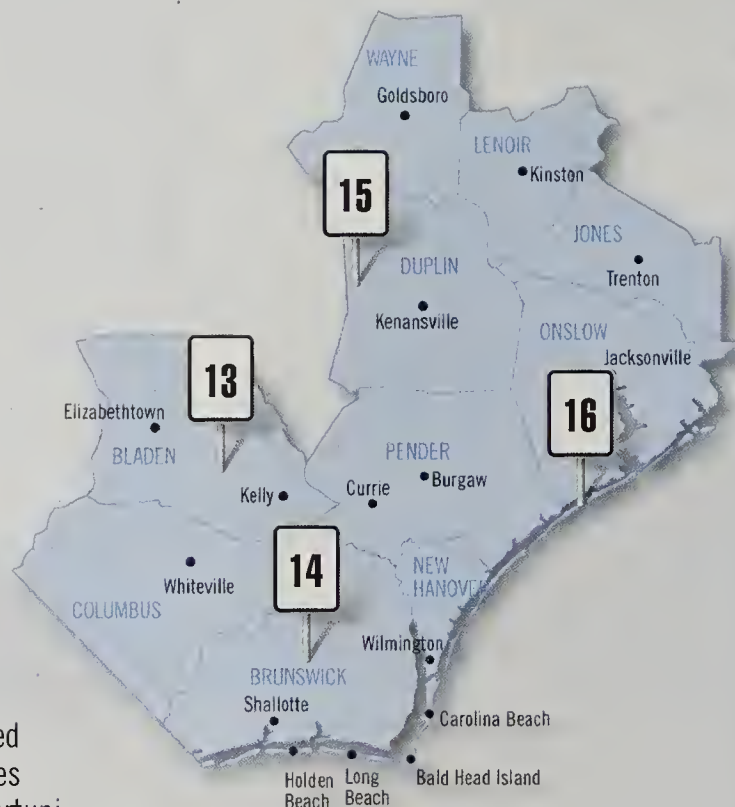
5386 Tabor Church Rd.  
Fayetteville, NC 28312

(910) 484-2798

[www.jambbas.com](http://www.jambbas.com)



# SOUTHERN COASTLAND ADVENTURES



Water is at the heart of the Southern Coastland. Rivers feed the farmlands and meander to the southern beaches. Lakes and streams provide fishing, hiking and other recreational opportunities. Towns grew up along the water's edge, from Wayne County south to the Brunswick Islands, from Seven Springs to the port city of Wilmington. This is also the land of pork, tobacco, seafood, grapevines and good times at the beach. (For more information see our travel resources on page 74.)

13

## SINGLETARY LAKE STATE PARK



A nicely-maintained part of Bladen Lakes State Forest where groups can camp in cabins, learn about the Civilian Conservation Corps legacy and the unique regional environment, and tell stories under the stars.

14

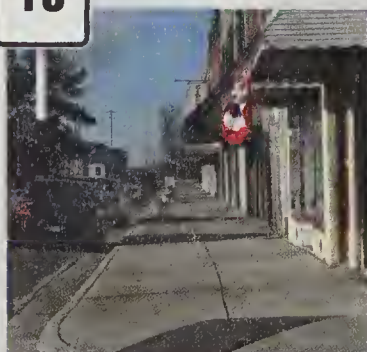
## GREEN SWAMP ECOLOGICAL PRESERVE



One of the last remaining examples of longleaf pine savannas anywhere.

15

## WARSAW



A town deeply connected to and proud of the U.S. military and its veterans.

16

## TOPSAIL ISLAND



A family-oriented island beach resort with a fondness for sea turtles.



# 13 SINGLETARY LAKE STATE PARK

## Bladen County

By Michael E.C. Gery



*Trees and other vegetation grow in from the margins of Carolina bays. At 4,000 feet across, Singletary Lake is one of the largest.*

If you were heading to overnight camp for the first time and you ended up at Singletary Lake State Park, you'd come away with a whole new appreciation of both nature and North Carolina.

Singletary Lake is set up specifically for groups to use one of two camps. Camp Ipecac has cabins for up to 92 people from April through October, while Camp Loblolly Bay can handle 48 people year-round. If you're not reserved with a group, you may come year-round to fish, swim or hike on your own, but you need to check with the ranger's office ahead of time.

This is one of the famous Carolina bay lakes, whose origins thousands of years ago remain a mystery. They are not fed by streams or springs but rely on rain and runoff for their water. At one time some 500,000 of them existed in this region, but most have filled in with organic matter and are just moist swamps. Singletary is considered to be about 44 percent of its original size. They are called bays because of the trees that grow around them: sweet bay, red bay, loblolly bay. At 4,000 feet across, about 11 feet deep and with about four miles of shoreline, Singletary is one of the largest. (It was named for Richard Singletary who in 1729 received a large grant of land in this region.) Others here in southeastern North Carolina include Jones, Waccamaw and White.

### A HISTORY OF CONSERVATION

In 1828, the North Carolina legislature declared all bay lakes in the state larger than 500 acres as public property, and in 1929 the size was reduced to 50 acres. At one time, the people who worked around here turned the conifer forests into

pitch, tar and turpentine, but when that industry shrank the lands seemed useless. In 1936 the National Park Service set up a demonstration project here to turn the area into a place for recreation, education and natural resource conversation. Under the direction of Franklin Roosevelt's Depression-era Resettlement Administration, the Civilian Conservation Corps hired legions of unemployed young men to carry out the plan. They built this into the educational camp it is today, and a new, bronze statue at Camp Ipecac honors their work. In 1939, the federal government leased the property to North Carolina, and the camp opened that summer. In 1954 it became state property.

Singletary lies within the vast, 36,000-acre Bladen Lakes State Forest and as such offers a wide opportunity to learn about what grows and lives here in the woods and the white sand soil. Bay lakes are especially acidic and do not contain much plant life, but around the shore you can see how peat develops and encourages the bay forest to grow. You can see pepperbush, huckleberry, sheepskill and gallberry. You can see the rare red-cockaded woodpecker, and the more common wood duck, pileated woodpecker and red-tailed hawk, plus wild turkey, deer, fence lizards and carpenter frogs.

The camp buildings invite a certain fellowship that urges visitors to swim together, paddle canoes, and tell stories in the dining hall, around a campfire and under the stars.

#### Singletary Lake State Park

6707 NC 53 Hwy.

Kelly, NC 28448

(910) 669-2928

[www.ncsparks.net](http://www.ncsparks.net)



# 14 GREEN SWAMP ECOLOGICAL PRESERVE

**Brunswick County**

*By Michael E.C. Gery*

**Y**ou can travel a long way through central Brunswick County on N.C. Hwy. 211 without seeing any buildings or utility poles. The place looks like it's in its natural, almost primeval state. But the truth is that if these quiet, beautiful savannas of longleaf pine trees and wiregrass, and the surrounding rich, dense bogs of Green Swamp were not managed, they would likely turn into your typical mixed hardwood forest within a generation.

Lucky for us, much of the rare ecology of Green Swamp has been saved. They say that only 1 percent of the nation's once-widespread longleaf pine savannas still remain, and that this one is the best.

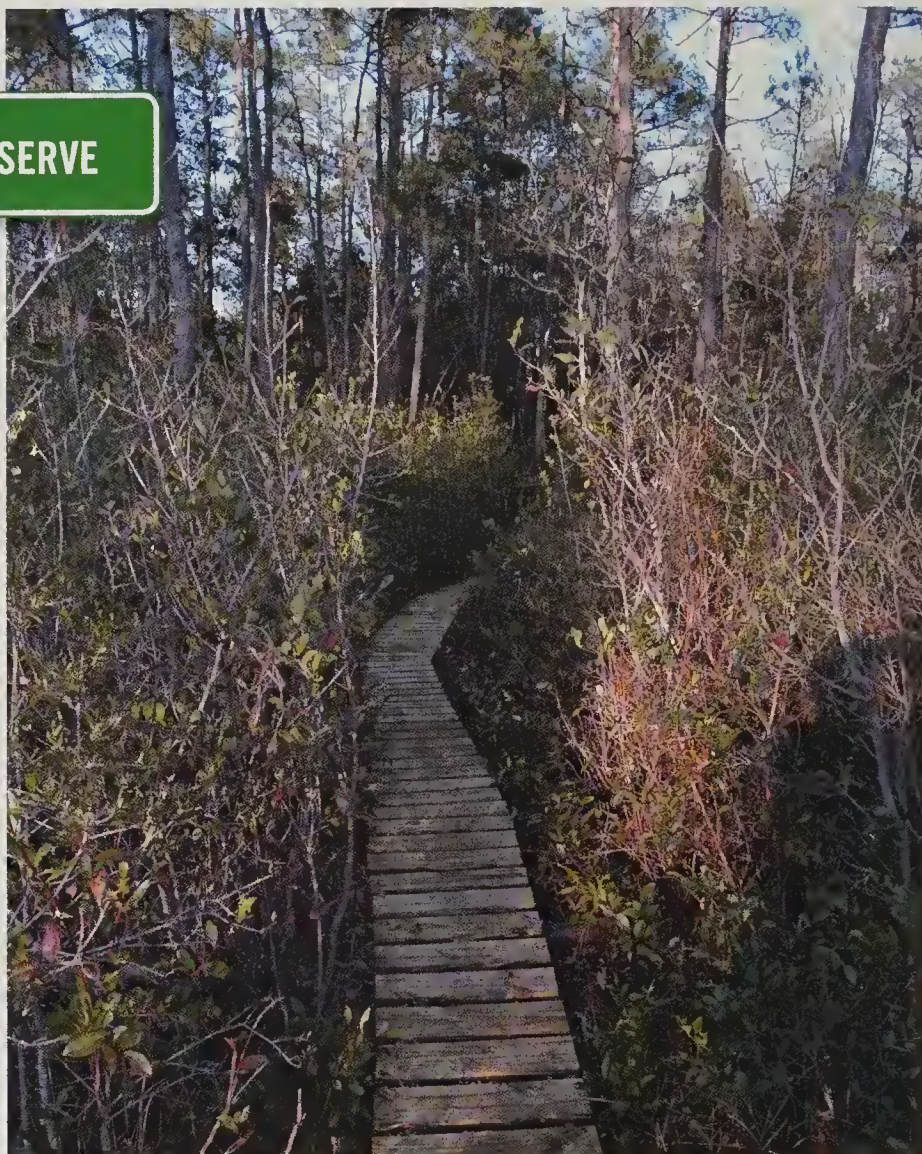
Most of the management here is done by private paper and pulp interests, such as International Paper. But since 1977, about 16,000 acres have been protected and managed by The Nature Conservancy. Drive 5 ½ miles north of Supply on Hwy. 211 and you'll enter the Green Swamp Ecological Preserve, and there's a small parking lot on the east side of the highway. If your shoes don't mind wet ground, you can walk into the Green Swamp here. First you

read information on a kiosk about the Green Swamp environment. Then you can wander on a soft trail through a wondrous savanna—or flat grassland—open to long views of the striking longleaf pine trees and swaying blond wiregrass below. Hike farther and a new, narrow plank walkway will take you



*Beautiful longleaf pines surround you in here.*

through the soggy pocosin (the Algonquin word for "swamp on a hill") and into another savanna. Keep going and you'll lose the sound of the occasional vehicle passing by on Hwy. 211. Then you can hear and see some amazing sights: birds, orchids and the spirit of the Green Swamp.



*A new boardwalk path gets you through the pocosin area of Green Swamp Ecological Preserve.*

If you were a certain kind of insect you'd be worried by this time. Green Swamp Preserve contains some 14 species of plants that devour insects, including Venus flytrap, sundew and the pitcher plant. Larger animals fare better in here, such as the fox squirrel, American alligator, Bachman's sparrow and something known as the hairstreak butterfly.

## NATURE CONSERVANCY MANAGEMENT

The Nature Conservancy tells you that the controlled burns they do here help keep the place natural and healthy. Pond pines, for example, produce cones whose seeds proliferate best under high temperature. The longleaf pines require open ground and sunlight. The fires do not harm the roots of what grows here. Management of this preserve is made possible by the Estate of Harry Patrick Gold and Emma Green Gold.

The entire Green Swamp comprises some 140 square miles. It's hard to believe such nature exists so near to the exploding growth of the Southport and Brunswick Islands region. In 1795, the state gave a huge land grant to three men for cutting the timber and mining peat. Haitian refugees settled back in here some years later. Parts of the area still seem inviting to refugees only.

**The Nature Conservancy**  
Southeast Coastal Plain Office  
131 Racine Drive, Suite 101  
Wilmington, NC 28403  
(910) 395-5000



# 15 WARSAW

## Duplin County

By Michael E.C. Gery



Well-preserved storefronts along Warsaw's railroad.

Warsaw is a very proud town in western Duplin County that has long ties with the Seaboard Coast Line Railroad, the Baptist Church, the surrounding farms and especially the U.S. military. When other towns dropped it or ignored it all together, Warsaw celebrated the original Veterans Day on November 11 every year since it was first recognized in 1921 as the Armistice Day holiday to mark the end of World War I in 1918. It is the longest continuous Veterans Day celebration in the U.S.

There's a distinct honor for the military in Warsaw. Flags drape storefronts. A salon is named Headquarters of the Hair Command. Warsaw Veterans Park stands next to the Warsaw-Faison News office. The I-40 Rest Area sports a howitzer. The top military commander of forces in Afghanistan today, Gen. Dan K. McNeill, is from Warsaw.

But such reverence is most notable at the Veterans Memorial Museum. The museum is relatively new inside the carefully restored 1894 L.P. Best house (where daughter Margaret in 1917 married a Goldsboro man who became an Army general and President's Truman's Secretary of War). The first floor rooms appear as they did during the Bests'

residency, including several original furnishings. The second floor rooms smartly display artifacts of every U.S. war and conflict and also honor all Duplin County's veterans, including eight from the Dail family alone and all 18 who served in Vietnam. Museum director Randall Albertson—

himself retired from the U.S. Army after 40 years, including time in Operation Desert Storm—proudly tells the stories behind the artifacts and displays. Mannequins wear uniforms of all service branches, and six of the uniforms belonged to his kin, including his father. A special tribute hangs to Henry L. Stevens Jr., a Warsaw native who was 1931 National Commander of the American Legion and who was involved in starting the town's Veterans Day celebration.

### DUPLIN DEPOT TO WARSAW

Known in the 1830s as Duplin Depot, then Mooresville, the town was incorporated in 1855 as Warsaw. The depot's stationmaster Thaddeus Love was nicknamed "Thaddeus of Warsaw," after a popular book of the time (about a Polish military hero, of course). Parts of today's business district and residential neighborhoods comprise the 27 buildings within the National Register Historic District.

With its population of 3,100, Warsaw also has a lively contemporary character. The Southern Breeze Sports Bar & Grill stands next to the Country Bar & Shag Club. There's the Breakthrough Creative music studio, the Duplin Trading Co., a community college branch, and The Hut sells "urban hip-hop clothing and mixed CDs." Right outside town is the world's largest pork producer Murphy-Brown and the famous Scottish-themed Country Squire Restaurant.



The Veterans Memorial Museum in Warsaw's historic district.

**Greater Warsaw Chamber Of Commerce**  
P. O. Box 585  
Warsaw, NC 28398

(910) 293-7804  
[www.townofwarsawnc.com](http://www.townofwarsawnc.com)

**Veterans Memorial Museum**  
Thursdays & Fridays 1-4  
Saturdays 2-4

(910) 293-2190



# 16 TOPSAIL ISLAND

**Onslow and Pender counties**

*By Michael E.C. Gery*



*Topsail Island's beaches are among the area's most peaceful.*

**T**opsail Island is a traditional, family-style beach resort. The only high-rise buildings are the boat storage facility in Surf City and the water tower behind Topsail Beach town hall. The speed limit is 25 in most residential areas so families can cross at a leisurely pace on their walk to the beach. There are four fishing piers on the island and golf courses nearby. And there are dozens of public beach access points.

This is a 26-mile-long, narrow barrier island, from 500 to 1,500 feet across, where you can see both the ocean and the sound (Intercoastal Waterway) from just about any point. Hurricane Fran slammed into Topsail in 1996 and devastated the island, but the communities rebuilt themselves. It was a major job for Jones-Onslow EMC, the Touchstone Energy cooperative that serves the island.

There are three municipalities: Topsail Beach (pop. 500) on the southern end, North Topsail Beach (pop. 850) on the northern end, and Surf City (pop. 1,400) in the middle straddling the Onslow-Pender county line. In summer, their populations swell maybe 20-fold. House and condo rentals range from \$400 per week in the off-season to \$4,000 per week in high season, with most costing in the middle of that range. Many places are simply used by their owners in summer.

## PIRATES & MISSILES

They say the name Topsail (pronounced TOP'sul) comes from the mid-1700s when merchant ships and others would detect the lurking presence of pirate

ships by spying their topsails above the dune lines or in the distance.

Until after World War II, you couldn't drive over here. Locals came by boat. The U.S. Navy occupied the island for its secret Operation Bumblebee, which built oceanside launch pads for testing ramjet rockets and missiles. You can still see some of the Navy structures, including cubical concrete observation towers. The Assembly Building in Topsail Beach was the arsenal and now houses a collection of artifacts and stories of that era.

Surf City is where you go for groceries, supplies, a charter boat, massage therapy, church, pizza, Hula's Night Club, etc. From the mainland you reach Surf City on the historic swing bridge that opens from time to time to let boat traffic through.

A new bike and walking path runs along the 6-or-so-mile stretch of Hwy. 50 from Surf City through Topsail Beach. The ocean beach is flat, wide and inviting. As a defense against storm tides, they've had to push sand up to make dunes, and walking on them could cost you a \$500 fine. The famous Karen Beasley Sea Turtle Rescue and Rehabilitation Center is here, caring for loggerheads that are very favored neighbors. You also can roller skate here any night. The Sea Vista is a throwback to the days of oceanfront motels.

North Topsail is the newest town, incorporated in 1990, and it shows. The newer residential development seems to be going on here. There's a nice, new town park, and the beach access areas are well-equipped.

Greater Topsail Area Chamber



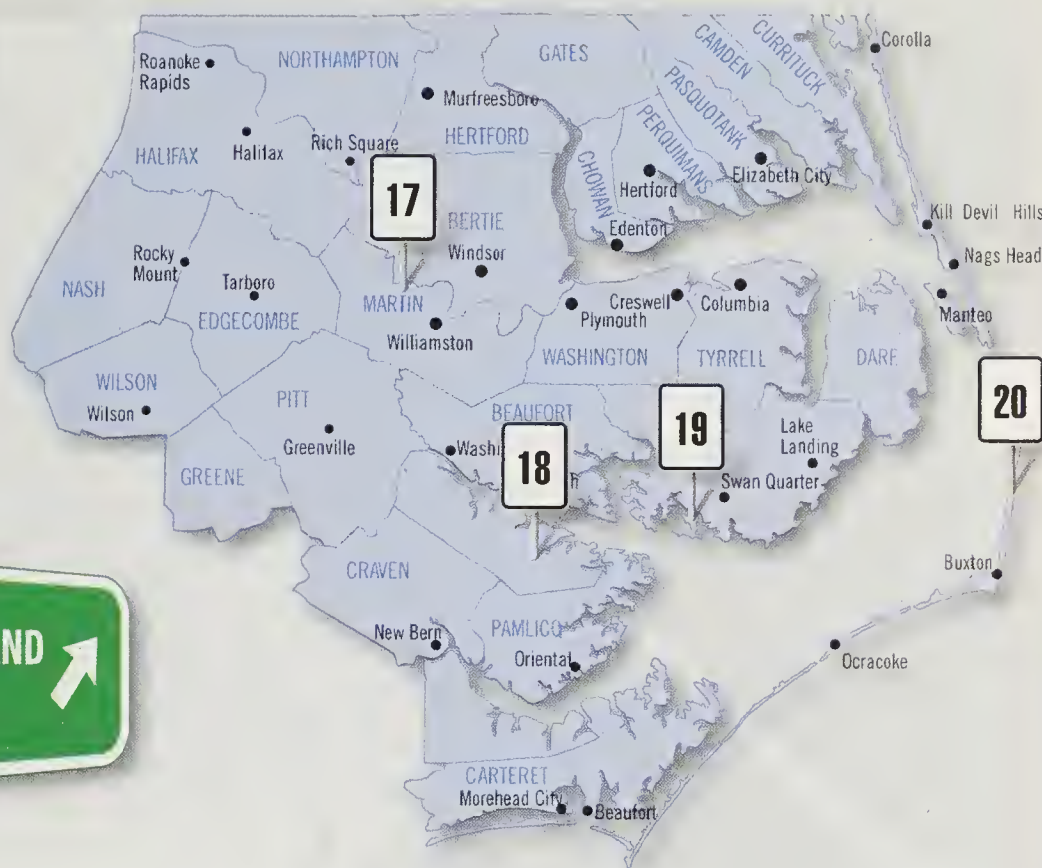
*One of the observation towers on Topsail used when the Navy tested missiles in the 1940s.*

**Greater Topsail Area  
Chamber of Commerce and Tourism**  
13775 Hwy. 50, Suite 101  
Surf City, NC 28445

(800) 626-2780 (toll-free)  
info@topsailcoc.com  
www.topsailcoc.com



## NORTHERN COASTLAND ADVENTURES



This is North Carolina's cradle of civilization. Like the birds in the local Atlantic Flyway, here is where we learned to fly faithfully and gracefully. Now we teach others how to keep it that way. (For more information see our travel resources on pages 74-75.)

17

### FORT BRANCH



On a bluff overlooking the Roanoke River, local people and Confederate forces built a fortification that successfully defended the Roanoke valley throughout the Civil War.

18

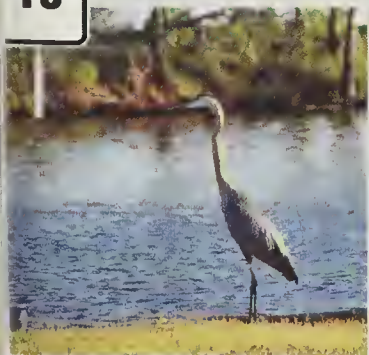
### AURORA FOSSIL MUSEUM



See how plants and animals looked in the coastal plain millions of years ago.

19

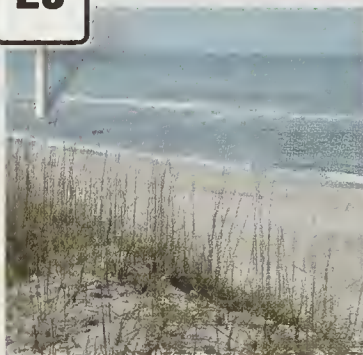
### SWAN QUARTER



A quiet, coastal county seat that remains natural. And now, there are four daily ferries to Ocracoke.

20

### CAPE HATTERAS NATIONAL SEASHORE



The nation's first national seashore preserves the natural beauty, life and spirit of the Outer Banks.



## 17 FORT BRANCH

### Martin County

By Michael E.C. Gery

**E**arly in 1862, planters and families along the Roanoke River from Plymouth up through Martin, Bertie, Halifax and Northampton counties worried about threats from Union forces that had recently advanced from the coast to occupy Elizabeth City, Edenton and later Plymouth. The Union effectively controlled the Albemarle Sound region and could easily venture up the Roanoke to ravage the local farms, towns and the “lifeline” railroad bridge near Roanoke Rapids at Weldon where supplies were transported to Confederate armies in Virginia. The Union also aimed at a site up the Roanoke where the Confederacy was building an ironclad gunboat (the “C.S.S. Albemarle”). The local planters and Confederate troops stationed in the area worked with commissioned engineers to build obstructions and a fort on the Roanoke that might thwart a Federal advance.

In the spring of 1862, a barricade was built in the river and a battery of men defended the selected site of Rainbow Bend, a 100-foot-high bluff overlooking a river bend near the town of Hamilton. This defense worked well during a skirmish with Union gunboats that summer. By October, a fort had been designed whose cannons might blast Union vessels rounding the bend, but the Union began creeping upriver soon after the November occupation of Williamston and partially destroyed the fort’s early construction. With local help, including slave labor, the fort was finally completed in February 1863 and named for a local officer who had been killed in Maryland earlier. Fort Branch could accommodate 1,000 men and 11 guns of various sizes that could reach vessels on the river, and it was well positioned to defend the landward side where reinforcements could reach it. By summer 1863, Fort Branch was garrisoned (the 17th North Carolina Regiment, mostly local men) with a full complement of soldiers and artillery.

When the “Albemarle” came downriver in April 1864, the South recaptured Plymouth, which made Fort Branch less vulnerable. In October, however, the Union sank the “Albemarle” and regained Plymouth. Fort Branch was reinforced to defend the Roanoke valley. In December, the



*Near the Civil War-era fort are reconstructed soldiers quarters used in reenactments.*

Union sent three gunboats to attack Fort Branch, but they were defeated by torpedoes, sharpshooters and the Fort Branch artillery.

Fort Branch and the Roanoke valley were not threatened again. In April 1865, when Gen. Lee surrendered, Fort Branch was evacuated, its buildings destroyed and its cannons pushed into the river. The U.S. Navy retrieved three of the cannons.

### RESTORING THE SITE

Local and state interest in Fort Branch revived in the 1970s and by 1977, 10 of its 11 cannons were raised. Since then, the private organization Fort Branch Battlefield Commission has led the restoration, which remains on private property.

Today the site is a peaceful, wooded area next to open fields on the river. It contains the original earthworks, the original cannons, gun emplacements, the engine from a local steamboat, reconstructed soldiers’ quarters and artifacts. The site is open Saturdays and Sundays 1:30-5:30 p.m. from April through the first weekend in November when a living history Civil War battle re-enactment takes place. There also is a Christmas event in early December and special spring events.

An interesting history has been published, and the Fort Branch Commission seeks support for completing the restoration of what would be the only earthwork fortification in the South to have its original artillery in place.

The site is on Fort Branch Road, 2.5 miles east of Hamilton.

#### Martin County Travel & Tourism

P.O. Box 382

Williamston, NC 27892

(800) 776-8566

[www.visitmartincounty.com](http://www.visitmartincounty.com)

[www.fortbranchcivilwarsite.com](http://www.fortbranchcivilwarsite.com)

[adjutant@fortbranchcivilwarsite.com](mailto:adjutant@fortbranchcivilwarsite.com)



# 18 AURORA FOSSIL MUSEUM

## Beaufort County

By Michael E.C. Gery

A long time ago, much of North Carolina's coastal plain was under water. We're talking maybe 10 million to 40 million years ago. It's a period geologists call the Tertiary—after the dinosaurs more or less died out, and when mammals and plants began taking over the earth. Mammals could do things that dinosaurs couldn't do, such as climb, dig and swim. Also during this period, the continents as we know them today began taking shape.

There are places in our coastal plain where you can find fossils of the plants and animals that lived here back then. The river valleys that reach into our sounds are especially rich with fossils. People have found evidence of animals that lived in and around the sea which once covered eastern North Carolina: giant sharks, whales, walruses, seals, even horses and camels.

The best place for people to see these fossils is in Aurora, Beaufort County, at the Aurora Fossil Museum. Since 1976, the museum has devoted itself to collecting and displaying fossils of the region. It's become a place where kids and adults both not only learn a whole lot they didn't know before, but they also have a good time.

Outside the building is what they call the "Pit of the Pungo." Pungo, in fact, is a recognized term in geology, referring to the particular "formation" here millions of years ago. The Pungo River, however, also in Beaufort County, drew its name from the Machupunga ("much dust") Indians who lived here. The pit is where you can look for fossils really easily. It is replenished on a regular basis by the local phosphate mine.

The phosphate mine is actually the reason Aurora Fossil Museum came about in the first place. It's one of the best places in the hemisphere to get phosphate. The Potash Corporation of Saskatchewan (PCS) operates the huge mine, employing about 1,000 people, unearthing phosphate ore that eventually is used globally in fertilizer and feed supplements. A byproduct of working the mine is the wealth of ancient



A fossil find at the PCS phosphate mine near Aurora.



The giant in the shark room.

fossils PCS turns up. These are considered to be fossils from the Miocene period, 5 million to 23 million years ago.

The museum fossil displays represent several epochs and regions. They include shark teeth and mouths, like the Giant Megatoothed shark. There's a whole room devoted to sharks. There's also a walrus skull, a whale skull, and a toothed whale skeleton from South Carolina. You can see ancient fossils of crabs, starfish, and many plants. The museum also has a room showing Native American artifacts from the area, a gallery showing minerals, an archaeology room and a gift shop.

The staff is very willing to help you understand what fossils are and how to search for them. You should bring your own trowel or sifter, as well as a bucket or other container to carry away what you find.

In May, the Fossil Festival here has been growing each year. Activities range from scholarly presentations to fossil vendors and tours of the PCS mine. This year it's on Saturday, May 26.

One way to reach the museum is by taking the free ferry across Pamlico River from Bayview, which is near Historic Bath.

Hours of operation are Monday through Saturday, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Sundays from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. Admission is free and donations are welcomed. School classes and other groups should make prior arrangements for their visits.

### Aurora Fossil Museum

400 Main St.  
Aurora, NC 27806

(252) 322-4238  
[www.aurorafossilmuseum.com](http://www.aurorafossilmuseum.com)



# 19 SWAN QUARTER

## Hyde County

By Michael E.C. Gery

If you live in Hyde County, Swan Quarter is where you go to attend court or to some other county government task. If you don't live in Hyde County, Swan Quarter is where you go to meet the ferry to or from Ocracoke.

The best news that's come along in a while is the two new Swan Quarter-Ocracoke ferry runs this year. Beginning May 22, you can meet four daily ferries in Swan Quarter. This makes a day-trip to Ocracoke possible.

Departure times are

- Swan Quarter: 7 and 9:30 a.m., 1 and 4 p.m.
- Ocracoke: 6:30 and 10 a.m., 12:30 and 4 p.m.

Make a reservation and show up at the ferry dock at least a half-hour before departure. The 2½-hour trip across costs \$15 one-way for a standard vehicle (no credit cards). Enjoy the water while your vehicle rests. Make Swan Quarter reservations at (800) 773-1094 and Ocracoke reservations at (800) 345-1665. Get other schedules from (800) BY-FERRY or [www.ncferry.org](http://www.ncferry.org). Until May 22 and after September 3, the ferry makes two runs per day.

Downtown Swan Quarter has nearly recovered from Hurricane Isabel in early September 2003, when everything here was underwater, including the historic 1854 courthouse and its records. At the time, Pat Spencer's handwritten sign in front of his service station (the community message board since 1990) was virtually the only source of news. Today the sign still serves as a gracious and compassionate town crier. Across the street, the impressive new Government Center and Public Safety Center are scheduled for completion early this summer.

Visitors and boaters who land here should know that The Quarter Grill in the village is open seven days a week with a convenience store, grill (grill closed on Sundays) and a hot bar for the midday meal. And Chris' Grocery out on US 264 carries groceries and sandwiches.

Swan Quarter remains proud of its fishing

culture. You can buy fresh seafood right off the dock here. And Mattamuskeet Seafood, a longtime working crab house nearby, offers crab cakes and fresh crab meat in season.

The African American community has had considerable influence on the area's cultural development. In the mid-1960s, one of the state's most steadfast defenses of community education occurred here.

Throughout the area you can see that residents still think in high and mighty terms. Many of the buildings have been raised, which no doubt improves their view of the magnificent, natural surroundings.

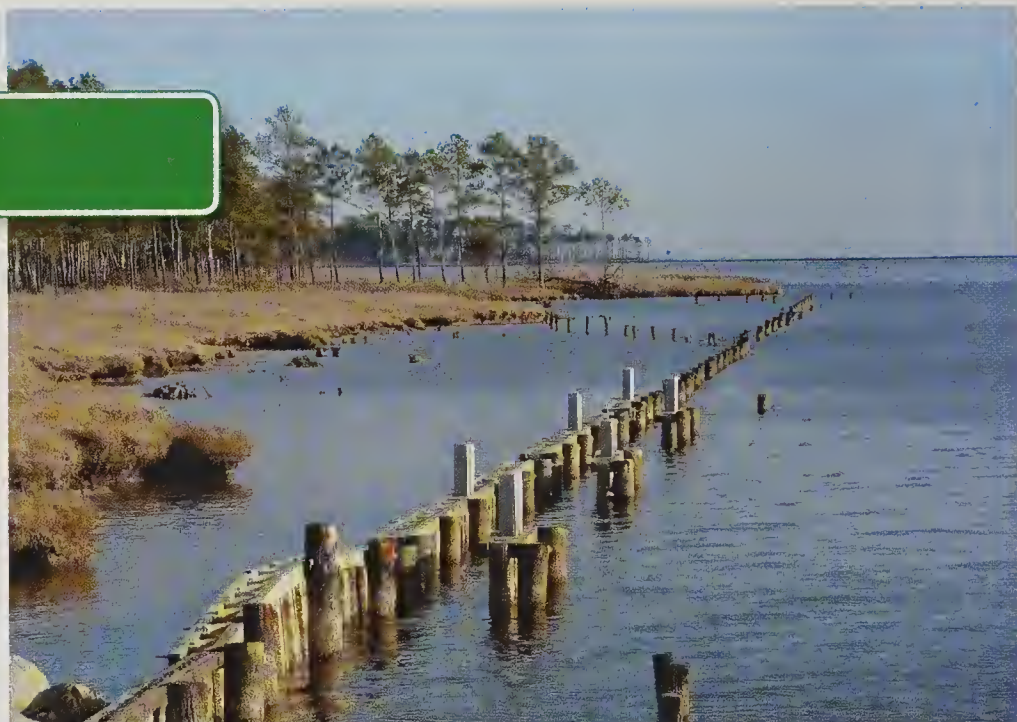
The Swan Quarter National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1932, thanks to the hard work of the Civilian Conservation Corps. The 13,200 acres of marshland and 3,200 acres of forested wetlands not only provide nurseries for the region's fisheries but also sanctuary to waterfowl, alligators and other wildlife. There are several boat ramps and a nice, long pier at the Bell Island entrance off US 264. Hunting is permitted in about 6,000 acres November through January. The refuge is managed by the Mattamuskeet National Wildlife Refuge farther down the highway. (Contact: 38 Mattamuskeet Road, Swan Quarter, NC 27885. Phone: (252) 926-4021. E-mail: [mattamuskeet@fws.gov](mailto:mattamuskeet@fws.gov). Web: [www.fws.gov/swanquarter](http://www.fws.gov/swanquarter))

A testament to Swan Quarter's resolve is the Providence United Methodist Church on Main Street. Refused this site in 1876, the congregation built its first church elsewhere, but a few days after it was completed, the tide of an Isabel-like hurricane lifted and carried the church back to where the people wanted it in the first place. "Moved by the Hand of God," the church in 1881 won the right to stay and is still there.

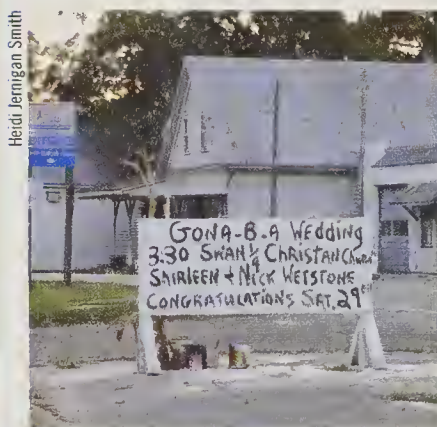
### Greater Hyde County Chamber of Commerce

P. O. Box 178  
Swan Quarter, NC 27885

Toll-free (888) 493-3826  
[hydecocc@embarqmvail.com](mailto:hydecocc@embarqmvail.com)  
[www.hydecountry.org](http://www.hydecountry.org)



Swan Quarter National Wildlife Refuge has protected area fisheries since 1932.



Spencer's sign is a major means of communication downtown.



## 20 CAPE HATTERAS NATIONAL SEASHORE

### Dare and Hyde counties

By Michael E.C. Gery

In 1926, Elizabeth City businessmen proposed connecting by toll bridge the Outer Banks to the mainland. Victor Meekins, a son of the coast and reporter for the Elizabeth City Independent, wrote, "From America's many millions will come men of wealth and leisure to seek what nature's hand has wrought" and to "add wealth to ancestral acres long neglected."

In the early 1930s, the young National Park Service determined that only one percent of the nation's 20,000 miles of coast was in public protection. Because the Outer Banks remained relatively inaccessible, the 150 miles of beach seemed a good candidate for a new national reserve: a national seashore park. The Outer Banks also were in ecological disarray. Open grazing, deforestation and beach erosion had made it "a Paleozoic nothingness," as one Park Service scout reported.

The U.S. government set up sand fixation and reforestation programs here in 1934. The rehabilitation work of the Civilian Conservation Corps along 115 miles of shoreline stabilized the beach and set the stage for preserving the barrier islands. The six-year presence of the CCC crews caused curiosity and upheaval within the social order. But the local people were more concerned about the specter of Uncle Sam reckoning to ask them to sacrifice their land, livelihood, and way of life for a national playground.

The North Carolina General Assembly in 1935 and the Congress in 1937 authorized the first National Seashore. By that time, a few of the wealthy hunt club owners who had

bought huge tracts here in the 1920s had been persuaded to sell their holdings for the plan. Recent laws restricting hunting had soured many of them anyway.

But it took nearly 20 years of political wrangling and battles with real estate speculators, and a gift from the Mellon family foundations, before lands for the Cape Hatteras National Seashore were acquired. The area around the already-established Wright Brothers Memorial had been lost



*All of the Cape Hatteras National Seashore is protected from development.*

to development. (The original idea had been to preserve 150 miles and 60,000 acres). Frank Stick, a transplanted wildlife artist and himself a real estate developer on the banks, and later his son David, tirelessly promoted the seashore as a natural wonder on Hatteras and Ocracoke islands.

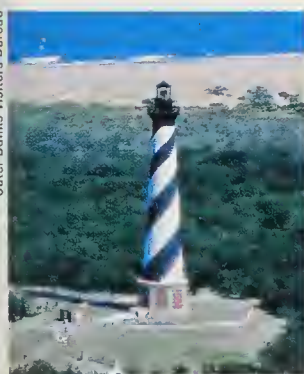
### SURF, SAND, SKY

Today's Cape Hatteras National Seashore extends 75 miles from Nags Head through Ocracoke, the largest stretch of undeveloped seashore in the U.S. The 30,000 acres, including Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge, do not reach into the eight villages, where tourist-friendly residents defend their island culture.

More than 400 species of birds live in or pass through this busy Atlantic Flyway. The Park Service protects their habitat, as well as sea turtle beach nesting. The beaches offer the best surfing and snoozing on the East Coast. Parking and camping are allowed in designated places. Motorized vehicles are permitted on some beaches, as well, though stricter management is likely.

Historic attractions include three lighthouses and keepers' quarters. Several sites work in concert with the Park Service, including Chicamacomico Lifesaving Station, Oregon Inlet Fishing Center, museums and fishing piers. There are visitor centers at either end of the Seashore. (Whalebone Junction's soon will be replaced by a restored Coast Guard station.)

While some of the wrangling that characterized its formation persists today between public and private interests, the prevailing view is that preserving the seashore in its historically natural state is what has made this area so valuable.



*The famed Cape Hatteras Lighthouse, relocated in 1999, is open during the season.*

#### Cape Hatteras National Seashore

1401 National Park Drive  
Manteo, NC 27954

(252) 473-2111  
[www.nps.gov/caha](http://www.nps.gov/caha)

#### Outer Banks Visitors Bureau

(877) 629-4386  
[www.outerbanks.org](http://www.outerbanks.org)





## MOUNTAINS

**Alexander County**  
(828) 632-8141  
[www.alexandercountychamber.com](http://www.alexandercountychamber.com)

**Alleghany County Chamber**  
(800) 372-5473  
[www.sparta-nc.com](http://www.sparta-nc.com)

**Andrews Chamber**  
(828) 321-3584  
[www.andrewschambercommerce.com](http://www.andrewschambercommerce.com)

**Ashe County Chamber**  
(888) 343-2743  
[www.ashechamber.com](http://www.ashechamber.com)

**Asheville CVB**  
(828) 258-6101  
[www.exploreasheville.com](http://www.exploreasheville.com)

**Avery/Banner Elk**  
(800) 972-2183  
[www.balconyoftheblueridge.com](http://www.balconyoftheblueridge.com)

**Beech Mountain Chamber**  
(800) 468-5506  
[www.beechmtn.com](http://www.beechmtn.com)

**Black Mountain**  
(800) 669-2301  
[www.exploreblackmountain.com](http://www.exploreblackmountain.com)

**Blowing Rock**  
(877) 750-INFO  
[www.blowingrock.com](http://www.blowingrock.com)

**Blue Ridge Parkway**  
469-mile scenic highway  
(828) 298-0398  
[www.blueridgeparkway.org](http://www.blueridgeparkway.org)

**Boone CVB**  
(800) 852-9506  
[www.visitboonenc.com](http://www.visitboonenc.com)

**Brevard/Transylvania County Tourism**  
(800) 648-4523  
[www.visitwaterfalls.com](http://www.visitwaterfalls.com)

**Brevard-Transylvania Chamber**  
(828) 883-3700  
[www.brevardncchamber.org](http://www.brevardncchamber.org)

**Burke County Travel & Tourism, Morganton**  
(888) 462-2921  
[www.burkecountytourism.org](http://www.burkecountytourism.org)

**Caldwell County**  
(828) 757-1290  
<http://caldwell.ces.ncsu.edu>

**Canton Papertown Association**  
(828) 648-7925  
[www.ncneighbors.com/CantonPapertownAssociation](http://www.ncneighbors.com/CantonPapertownAssociation)

**Cashiers Area**  
(828) 743-5191  
[www.cashiersnorthcarolina.com](http://www.cashiersnorthcarolina.com)

**Catawba County**  
(828) 465-8240  
<http://catawba.ces.ncsu.edu>

**Cherokee County**  
(828) 837-2242  
[www.cherokeecountychamber.com](http://www.cherokeecountychamber.com)

**Cherokee Indian Reservation**  
(800) 438-1601  
[www.cherokee-nc.com/main.htm](http://www.cherokee-nc.com/main.htm)

**Clay County Chamber**  
(828) 389-3704  
[www.claycounty-nc-chamber.com](http://www.claycounty-nc-chamber.com)

**Cleveland County Chamber**  
(704) 484-4800/(704) 487-8521  
[www.clevelandcounty.com](http://www.clevelandcounty.com)  
[www.clevelandchamber.org](http://www.clevelandchamber.org)

**Dillsboro Merchants Assn**  
(800) 962-1911  
[www.dillsboromERCHANTS.com](http://www.dillsboromERCHANTS.com)

**Franklin Chamber**  
(868) 372-5546  
[www.franklin-chamber.com](http://www.franklin-chamber.com)

**Glendale Springs (Ashe County)**  
(800) 342-2743  
[www.glendalesprings.com](http://www.glendalesprings.com)

**Graham County Travel & Tourism**  
(828) 479-3790/(800) 470-3790  
[www.grahamcountytravel.com](http://www.grahamcountytravel.com)

**Haywood County Chamber**  
(828) 456-3021/(877) 456-3073  
[www.haywood-nc.com](http://www.haywood-nc.com)

**Haywood County/ Maggie Valley/ Waynesville Gateway to the Smokies**  
(800) 334-9036/(828) 452-0152  
[www.smokeymountains.net](http://www.smokeymountains.net)

**Henderson County Travel & Tourism**  
(800) 828-4244  
[www.historichendersonville.org](http://www.historichendersonville.org)

**Greater Hendersonville Chamber**  
(828) 692-1413  
[www.hendersonvillechamber.org](http://www.hendersonvillechamber.org)

**Hickory Metro CVB & Regional Visitors Center**  
(800) 509-2444/(828) 322-1335  
[www.hickorymetro.com](http://www.hickorymetro.com)

**Hickory Nut Gorge**  
(828) 625-2725  
[www.hickorynut.org](http://www.hickorynut.org)

**High Country Host**  
Travel and accommodations information  
(800) 438-7500  
[www.mountainsofnc.com](http://www.mountainsofnc.com)

**Highlands Chamber & Visitors Center**  
(828) 526-2114  
[www.highlandschamber.org](http://www.highlandschamber.org)

**Jackson County Travel & Tourism**  
(800) 962-1911  
[www.mountainlovers.com](http://www.mountainlovers.com)

**Kings Mountain-Branch of Cleveland County Chamber**  
(704) 739-4755  
[www.clevelandchamber.org](http://www.clevelandchamber.org)

**Lincolnton-Lincoln County**  
(704) 735-3096  
[www.lincolinchambernc.org](http://www.lincolinchambernc.org)

**Madison County**  
(877) 262-3476  
[www.visitmadisoncounty.com](http://www.visitmadisoncounty.com)

**Maggie Valley Area CVB**  
(800) 624-4431/(828) 926-1686  
[www.maggievalley.org](http://www.maggievalley.org)

**McDowell Chamber**  
(828) 652-4240  
[www.mcdowellchamber.com](http://www.mcdowellchamber.com)

**McDowell Tourism Development Authority, Old Fort**  
(888) 233-6111/(828) 668-4282  
[www.mcdowellinc.org](http://www.mcdowellinc.org)

**Mitchell County Chamber, Spruce Pine**  
(828) 765-9483/(800) 227-3912  
[www.mitchell-county.com](http://www.mitchell-county.com)

**Mooresville CVB**  
(704) 799-2400/(877) 661-1234  
[www.racecityusa.org](http://www.racecityusa.org)  
[www.mooresvillenc.org](http://www.mooresvillenc.org)



**Mountain Information Centers, Asheville**  
(828) 654-8822

**Mountain Information Centers**  
(828) 258-4662

**NC Welcome Center**  
(I-40 West, Waynesville)  
(828) 627-6206  
www.visitnc.com

**North Wilkesboro**  
(336) 667-7129  
www.north-wilkesboro.com

**Old Fort Chamber**  
(828) 668-7223  
www.oldfort.org

**Polk County Chamber**  
(828) 859-6236  
www.polkchamber.org

**Polk County Visitors Center, Tryon**  
(800) 440-7848  
www.nc-mountains.org

**Rutherford County Chamber**  
(828) 287-3090  
www.rutherfordcoc.org

**Rutherford County Tourism Development**  
(800) 849-5998/(828) 245-1492  
www.rutherfordtourism.com

**Statesville CVB**  
(877) 531-1819/(704) 878-3480  
www.visitstatesville.org

**Smoky Mountain Host**  
Guide to attractions,  
accommodations  
(800) 432-4678  
www.visitsmokies.org

**Swain County**  
(828) 488-3681  
www.greatsmokies.com

**Wilkes County Chamber**  
(336) 838-8662  
www.wilkesnc.org

**Wilkesboro**  
(336) 838-3951  
www.wilkesboronorthcarolina.com

**Yancey County-Burnsville Chamber**  
(828) 682-7413/(800) 948-1632  
www.yanceychamber.com

## WESTERN PIEDMONT

**Anson County (Wadesboro)**  
(704) 694-4181  
www.ansoncounty.org

**Archdale-Trinity Chamber**  
(336) 434-2073  
www.archdaletrinitychamber.com

**Belmont**  
(704) 825-5307

**Bessemer City Area**  
(704) 629-5542  
www.bessemercity.com

**Cabarrus County CVB**  
(800) 848-3740  
www.cabarruscvb.com

**Charlotte Chamber**  
(704) 378-1300  
www.charlottechamber.org

**Charlotte CVB**  
(800) 722-1994/(704) 334-2282  
www.charlottecvb.org

**Cherryville Chamber**  
(704) 435-3451  
www.cherryville.com

**Davidson County**  
www.davidsoncountync.com

**Davie County Chamber**  
(336) 751-3304  
www.daviecounty.com

**Denton Area Chamber**  
(336) 859-4231  
www.dentonnorthcarolina.com

**Eden**  
(336) 623-2110  
www.ci.eden.nc.us

**Elkin-Jonesville Chamber**  
(336) 526-1111  
www.welcometonc.com

**Gaston County Chamber**  
(704) 864-2621  
www.gastonchamber.com

**Gaston County Travel & Tourism**  
(800) 849-9994/(704) 825-4044  
www.gastontourism.com

**Greensboro Area Chamber**  
(336) 387-8301  
www.greensboro.org

**Greensboro Area Convention and Visitors Bureau**  
(800) 344-2282  
www.visitgreensboro.com

**High Point Chamber**  
(336) 882-5000 ext.221  
www.highpointchamber.org

**High Point Convention and Visitors Bureau**  
(800) 720-5255/(336) 884-5255  
www.highpoint.org

**Kernersville Chamber**  
(336) 993-4521  
www.kernersvillenc.com

**King Chamber**  
(336) 983-9308  
www.kingnc.com

**Lexington Area Chamber and Visitors Center**  
(866) 604-2389/(336) 236-4218  
www.visitlexingtonnc.com

**Liberty Chamber**  
(816) 781-5200  
www.libertychamber.com  
info@libertychamber.com

**Marshville**  
(704) 624-3183

**Matthews Chamber**  
(704) 847-3649  
www.matthewschamber.com

**Mint Hill**  
(704) 545-9726  
www.minthill.com

**Monroe Tourism & Visitors Bureau**  
(704) 225-1085  
www.visitmonroenc.org

**Greater Mount Airy**  
(800) 948-0949  
www.visitmayberry.com

**Piedmont Triad Visitors Center**  
(800) 388-9830/(336) 388-9830  
www.greensboronc.org

**Randolph County Tourism, Asheboro**  
(800) 626-2672  
www.visitrandolphcounty.com

**Reidsville**  
(336) 349-8481  
http://reidsvillenc.accountsupport.com

**Rowan County Chamber**  
(704) 633-4221  
www.rowanchamber.com

**Rowan County CVB**  
(800) 332-2343/(704) 638-3100  
www.visitsalisburync.com

**Stanly County Chamber**  
(704) 982-8116

www.stanlychamber.org

**Stanly County CVB**  
(800) 650-1476/(704) 986-2583  
www.stanlycvb.com

**Stokes County**  
(336) 593-2496  
www.stokescounty.org

**Thomasville Visitors Center**  
(800) 611-9907  
www.thomasvilletourism.com

**Union County Chamber**  
(704) 289-4567  
www.unioncountycoc.com

**Western Rockingham Chamber**  
(336) 548-6248  
www.westernrockinghamchamber.com

**Winston-Salem Visitor Center**  
(866) 728-4200/(336) 728-4200  
www.visitwinstonsalem.com  
infor@wscvb.com

**Yadkin County Chamber**  
(336) 679-2200  
www.yadkinchamber.org

**Yadkin-Pee Dee Lakes Project**  
(910) 428-9001  
http://centralparknc.org  
info@centralparknc.org

## EASTERN PIEDMONT

**Angier**  
(919) 639-2500  
www.angierchamber.org

**Apex Chamber**  
(919) 362-6456/(800) 345-4504  
www.apexchamber.com

**Benson Chamber**  
(919) 894-3825  
www.benson-chamber.com  
www.bensonmuledays.com

**Burlington/Alamance CVB**  
(800) 637-3804/(336) 570-1444  
www.burlington-area-nc.org

**Capital Area Visitor Center**  
(919) 733-4994  
www.ncstatecapitol.org

**Cary Chamber**  
(919) 467-1016/(800) 919-CARY  
www.townofcary.org  
www.carychamber.com



**Caswell County Chamber**  
(336) 694-6106  
[www.caswellcountync.gov/chamber.htm](http://www.caswellcountync.gov/chamber.htm)

**Chapel Hill/Orange County**  
(888) 968-2060  
[www.chocvb.org](http://www.chocvb.org)

**Chapel Hill-Carrboro Chamber**  
(919) 967-7075  
[www.carolinachamber.org](http://www.carolinachamber.org)

**Clayton Chamber**  
(919) 553-6352  
[www.claytonchamber.com](http://www.claytonchamber.com)

**Dunn Area Tourism Authority**  
(910) 892-3282  
[www.dunntourism.org](http://www.dunntourism.org)  
[www.visitDunn.com](http://www.visitDunn.com)

**Durham CVB**  
(919) 687-0288/(800) 446-8604  
[www.durham-nc.com](http://www.durham-nc.com)

**Greater Durham Chamber**  
(919) 682-2133  
[www.durhamchamber.org](http://www.durhamchamber.org)

**Erwin Area**  
(910) 897-7300  
[www.erwinchamber.org](http://www.erwinchamber.org)

**Fayetteville Area CVB**  
(800) 255-8217/(910) 483-5311  
[www.visitfayettevillenc.com](http://www.visitfayettevillenc.com)

**Franklin County**  
(828) 524-3161/(866) 372-5546  
[www.franklin-chamber.org](http://www.franklin-chamber.org)

**Fuquay-Varina Area**  
(919) 552-4947  
[www.fuquay-varina.com](http://www.fuquay-varina.com)

**Garner Chamber**  
(919) 772-6440  
[www.garnerchamber.org](http://www.garnerchamber.org)

**Garner**  
(919) 772-4688  
[www.ci.garner.nc.us](http://www.ci.garner.nc.us)

**Granville County Chamber**  
(919) 693-6125/(919) 528-4994  
[www.granville-chamber.com](http://www.granville-chamber.com)

**Hillsborough/Orange County**  
(919) 732-8156  
[www.hillsboroughchamber.com](http://www.hillsboroughchamber.com)

**Historic Hillsborough**  
(919) 732-7741  
[www.historichillsborough.org](http://www.historichillsborough.org)

**Holly Springs Town Hall**  
(919) 552-6221  
[www.hollyspringsnc.us](http://www.hollyspringsnc.us)

**Hope Mills**  
(910) 423-4314  
[www.hopemillschamber.com](http://www.hopemillschamber.com)

**Johnston County Visitors Bureau**  
(800) 441-7829/(919) 989-8687  
[www.johnstoncountync.org](http://www.johnstoncountync.org)

**Knightdale Chamber**  
(919) 266-4603/(919) 217-2220  
[www.knightdalechamber.org](http://www.knightdalechamber.org)  
[www.ci.knightdale.nc.us](http://www.ci.knightdale.nc.us)

**Laurinburg/Scotland County Area**  
(910) 276-7420  
[www.laurinburgchamber.org](http://www.laurinburgchamber.org)  
[www.visitscotlandnc.org](http://www.visitscotlandnc.org)

**Lillington Area**  
(910) 893-3751  
[www.lillingtonnc.com](http://www.lillingtonnc.com)

**Lumberton Visitors Bureau**  
(800) 359-6971/(910) 739-9999  
[www.lumberton-nc.com](http://www.lumberton-nc.com)

**Montgomery County**  
(910) 572-4300  
[www.montgomery-county.com](http://www.montgomery-county.com)

**Morrisville**  
(919) 463-7150  
[www.morrisvillenc.com](http://www.morrisvillenc.com)

**Pembroke**  
(910) 521-9758  
[www.pembrokenc.com](http://www.pembrokenc.com)

**Person County Tourism**  
(336) 597-2689  
[www.visitroxboronc.com](http://www.visitroxboronc.com)

**Pinehurst, Southern Pines and Aberdeen Area CVB**  
(800) 346-5362  
[www.homeofgolf.com](http://www.homeofgolf.com)

**Pittsboro-Siler CVB**  
(800) 316-3829  
[www.visitthathemcounty.com](http://www.visitthathemcounty.com)

**Raeford-Hoke**  
(910) 875-5929  
[www.hoke-raeford.com](http://www.hoke-raeford.com)

**Greater Raleigh Chamber**  
(919) 664-7000  
[www.raleighchamber.org](http://www.raleighchamber.org)

**Greater Raleigh CVB**  
(800) 849-8499/(919) 834-5900  
[www.visitraleigh.com](http://www.visitraleigh.com)

**Red Springs**  
(910) 843-5241  
[www.redsprings.org](http://www.redsprings.org)

**Richmond County Chamber, Rockingham**  
(910) 895-9058  
[www.richmondcountychamber.com](http://www.richmondcountychamber.com)

**Rolesville Town Hall**  
(919) 556-3506  
[www.ci.rolesville.nc.us](http://www.ci.rolesville.nc.us)

**Roxboro Area Chamber**  
(336) 599-8333  
[www.roxboronc.com](http://www.roxboronc.com)

**Saint Pauls**  
(910) 865-5164  
[www.stpaulsnc.gov](http://www.stpaulsnc.gov)

**Sandhills Area Chamber**  
(910) 692-3926  
[www.sandhillsonline.com](http://www.sandhillsonline.com)

**Sanford Area Chamber**  
(919) 775-7341  
[www.sanford-nc.com](http://www.sanford-nc.com)

**Smithfield-Selma Area Chamber**  
(919) 934-9166  
[www.smithfieldselma.com](http://www.smithfieldselma.com)

**Greater Spring Lake Chamber**  
(910) 497-8821  
[www.springlakenc.org](http://www.springlakenc.org)

**Vance County Tourism Department (Henderson)**  
(866) 438-4565/(252) 438-2222  
[www.kerrlake-nc.com](http://www.kerrlake-nc.com)

**Wake Forest Area**  
(919) 556-1519  
[www.wakeforestchamber.org](http://www.wakeforestchamber.org)

**Warren County EDC**  
(252) 257-2657  
[www.warren-chamber.org](http://www.warren-chamber.org)

**Wendell**  
(919) 365-6318  
[www.wendellchamber.com](http://www.wendellchamber.com)

**Yadkin-Pee Dee Lakes Project**  
(704) 422-3215  
[www.lakesproject.org](http://www.lakesproject.org)

**Zebulon**  
(919) 269-6320  
[www.zebulonchamber.org](http://www.zebulonchamber.org)

## SOUTHERN COAST

**Bald Head Island Information Center**  
(800) 234-2441  
[www.baldheadisland.com](http://www.baldheadisland.com)

**Beulaville**  
(910) 298-4647  
[www.townofbeulaville.com](http://www.townofbeulaville.com)

**Brunswick County, Shallotte**  
(800) 426-6644/(910) 754-6644  
[www.brunswickcountychamber.org](http://www.brunswickcountychamber.org)

**Brunswick Islands, Shallotte**  
(800) 795-7263  
[www.ncbrunswick.com](http://www.ncbrunswick.com)

**Cape Fear Coast CVB**  
(Wilmington, Carolina Beach, Kure Beach, Wrightsville Beach)  
(877) 406-2356  
[www.gocapefearcoast.com](http://www.gocapefearcoast.com)

**Columbus County Tourism**  
(910) 649-5998  
[www.whitevillenc.com](http://www.whitevillenc.com)

**Coast Host**  
Information on attractions and accommodations  
[www.coasthost-nc.com](http://www.coasthost-nc.com)

**Duplin County Marketing**  
(800) 755-1755/(910) 296-2181  
[www.duplintourism.org](http://www.duplintourism.org)

**Elizabethtown-White Lake**  
(910) 862-4368  
[www.elizabethtownwhitelake.com](http://www.elizabethtownwhitelake.com)  
[www.bladeninfo.org](http://www.bladeninfo.org)

**Fair Bluff**  
(910) 649-5998  
[www.fairbluff.com](http://www.fairbluff.com)

**Faison**  
(910) 267-2721

**Greater Goldsboro Travel & Tourism**  
(919) 734-2245/(866) 440-2245  
[www.greatergoldsboro.com](http://www.greatergoldsboro.com)

**Greater Hampstead Chamber**  
(910) 270-9642/(800) 833-2483  
[www.hampsteadchamber.com](http://www.hampsteadchamber.com)

**Greater Jacksonville-Onslow**  
(910) 347-3141  
[www.jacksonvilleonline.org](http://www.jacksonvilleonline.org)  
[www.onslowcountytourism.com](http://www.onslowcountytourism.com)

**Kenansville Area**  
(910) 296-2180

**Kenly Chamber**  
(919) 284-5510  
[www.kenlynorthcarolina.com](http://www.kenlynorthcarolina.com)

**Kinston CVB**  
(800) 869-0032  
[www.visitkinston.com](http://www.visitkinston.com)

**Kinston-Lenoir County Chamber**  
(252) 527-1131  
[www.commercekinstonlc.com](http://www.commercekinstonlc.com)  
[www.kinstonchamber.com](http://www.kinstonchamber.com)

**LaGrange**  
(252) 527-1131  
[www.lagrangenorthcarolina.com](http://www.lagrangenorthcarolina.com)



**Mt. Olive Area Chamber**  
(919) 658-3113  
www.moachamber.com  
www.ncpicklefest.org

**Nash County Visitors Bureau**  
(800) 849-6825  
www.RockyMountTravel.com

**NC Ferries**  
(800) BY-FERRY  
www.ncferry.org

**Onslow County Tourism**  
(800) 932-2144  
www.onslowcountytourism.com

**Pender County**  
(Burgaw)  
(910) 259-1536/(800) 576-4756  
www.visitpender.com

**Pleasure Island (Carolina Beach, Kure Beach, Fort Fisher)**  
(800) 631-1460/(910) 341-4030  
(800) 641-7082/(877) 406-2356  
www.gocapefearcoast.com  
www.carolinabeachgetaway.com  
www.explorekurebeach.com

**Southeastern Welcome Center**  
(I-95 South, Rowland)  
(910) 754-2505

**Southport Visitor Center, Southport**  
(910) 457-7927  
www.cityofsouthport.com

**Southport-Oak Island**  
(800) 457-6964/(910) 457-6964  
www.southport-oakisland.com

**Tabor City**  
(910) 653-2031

**Greater Topsail Area**  
(800) 626-2780/(910) 329-4446  
www.topsailcoc.com

**Wallace**  
(910) 285-4044  
www.wallacechamber.com

**Warsaw**  
(910) 293-7814  
www.warsawnorthcarolina.com  
www.townorwarsawnc.com

**Wayne County Chamber**  
(919) 734-2241  
www.waynecountychamber.com

**Greater Whiteville**  
(910) 642-3171/(888) 533-7196

**Wilson Visitors Bureau**  
(252) 243-8440/(800) 497-7398  
www.wilson-nc.com

**Wrightsville Beach Visitors Center**  
(800) 650-9106/(910) 256-8116  
www.visitwrightsville.com

## NORTHERN COAST

**Ahoskie Chamber**  
(252) 332-2042  
www.ahoskie-nc.org

**Aycock Brown Welcome Center, Kitty Hawk**  
(877) OBX-4FUN/(252) 473-2138

**www.outerbanks.org**  
**Belhaven Community Chamber**  
(252) 943-3770  
www.belhavenchamber.com

**Chowan County Tourism, Edenton**  
(800) 775-0111/(252) 482-3400  
www.visitedenton.com

**Coast Host**  
Information on attractions and accommodation.  
www.coasthost-nc.com

**Corolla/Currituck Chamber**  
(252) 453-9497  
www.currituckchamber.org

**Crystal Coast Tourism Authority**  
(877) 206-0929/(252) 726-8148  
www.crystalcoastnc.org

**Dare County**  
(252) 475-5000  
www.darenc.com

**Dismal Swamp Canal Welcome Center, Camden County**  
(252) 771-8333/(877) 771-8333  
www.DismalSwamp.com

**Duck**  
(252) 255-1234  
www.townofduck.com

**Elizabeth City Area CVB**  
(252) 335-5330/(866) 324-8948  
www.discoverec.org

**Farmville Chamber**  
(252) 753-4670  
www.farmville-nc.com

**Gates County Manager**  
(252) 357-1240  
www.albemarle-nc.com/gates/G-O-E/county.htm

**Greenville/Pitt County CVB**  
(800) 537-5564  
www.visitgreenvillenc.com

**Havelock**  
(252) 447-1101  
www.havelockchamber.net

**Halifax County Tourism**  
(800) 522-4282  
www.visithalifax.com

**Historic Albemarle Tour**  
(800) 734-1117  
www.historicnenc.com

**Historic Bath Visitor Center**  
(252) 923-3971  
www.bath.nchistoricsites.org

**Hyde County Chamber**  
(252) 926-9171/(888) 493-3826  
www.hydecountry.org

**Kill Devil Hills**  
(252) 449-5302  
www.kdhnc.com

**Kitty Hawk**  
(252) 261-3552  
www.townofkittyhawk.org

**Lake Gaston Chamber and Visitors Center**  
(252) 586-5711/(866) 730-5711  
www.lakegastonchamber.com

**Manteo**  
(252) 473-2133  
www.townofmanteo.com

**Martin County Chamber**  
(252) 792-4131  
www.martincountync.com

**Martin County Travel & Tourism**  
(800) 776-8566  
www.visitmartincounty.com

**Murfreesboro Historical Association**  
(252) 398-5922  
www.murfreesboronc.com

**NC Ferries**  
(800) BY-FERRY  
www.ncferry.org

**NC Welcome Center**  
(I-95 North).  
(252) 537-9836  
www.visitnc.com

**NC Welcome Center**  
(I-85 North).  
(252) 456-3236  
www.visitnc.com

**Nags Head**  
(252) 441-5508  
www.townofnagshead.net

**New Bern/Craven County Convention and Visitor Center**  
(800) 437-5767  
www.visitnewbern.com

**Ocracoke NPS Visitor Center**  
(252) 928-4531  
www.nps.gov/caha

**Outer Banks Chamber**  
(252) 441-8144  
www.outerbankschamber.com

**Outer Banks Welcome Center on Roanoke Island**  
(252) 473-2138/(877) OBX-4FUN  
www.outerbanks.org

**Pamlico County Visitor Center**  
(252) 745-3008  
www.pamlicochamber.com  
www.pamlicodirectory.com

**Perquimans County Visitors Center**  
(252) 426-5657  
www.perquimans.com

**Roanoke Valley Chamber**  
(252) 537-3513  
www.rvchamber.com

**Rocky Mount**  
(252) 972-1542  
www.ci.rocky-mount.nc.us

**Scotland Neck**  
(252) 826-3152  
www.townofscotlandneck.com

**Southern Shores**  
(252) 261-2394  
www.southernshores-nc.gov

**Swansboro**  
(910) 326-1174  
www.tourswansboro.com

**Tarboro-Edgecombe Chamber**  
(252) 641-4200  
www.tarboro-nc.com

**Greater Tyrrell County Chamber**  
(252) 796-1996  
www.visittyrrellcounty.com

**Washington County Tourism**  
(252) 793-3248  
www.visitwashingtoncountync.com

**Washington/Beaufort County Visitor Information**  
(800) 546-0162  
www.originalwashington.com

**Windsor/Bertie County Chamber**  
(252) 794-4277  
www.windsor-bertie.com



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5	\$ .55	\$ .55
15	\$ .59	\$ .55
35	\$ 1.30	\$ 1.08
55	\$ 3.20	\$ 2.53
65	\$ 5.36	\$ 4.14
75	\$ 10.23	\$ 7.64
85	\$ 19.77	\$ 16.52

\* Does not include \$36 policy fee, minimums may apply

#### Sample Monthly Rates per 1,000\*

<u>Issue</u> <u>Age</u>	<u>Male</u> (tobacco)	<u>Female</u> ( tobacco)
5	N/A	N/A
15	N/A	N/A
35	\$ 1.79	\$ 1.49
55	\$ 4.30	\$ 3.55
65	\$ 7.18	\$ 5.41
75	\$ 13.24	\$ 8.85
85	\$ 26.26	\$ 17.67

\* Does not include \$36 policy fee, minimums may apply